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FEBRUARY 13 - 19, 2014

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GRANITE VIEWS JODY REESE

Your spare million



Get ready, downtown Manchester. The city wants you to pony up another $1 million in parking fees.

City parking officials are looking to raise monthly parking passes from $45 to $75 in the Millyard, $75 to $90 at Victory Garage and $50 to $70 on downtown streets. Hourly rates would increase to 75 cents and residents would face a $30 monthly parking fee.

Isn't it great that local downtown businesses are doing so well that they can easily part with another cool million? All the buildings are full, all the retail space is full. Heck, building owners are howling for a new tax increase because they're making so much money.

Unfortunately, the reality isn't so rosy for Manchester or Manchester's downtown. While the Upper Valley, Nashua and the Seacoast are seeing significant economic growth, Manchester is not. Walk down Elm Street and you'll see lots of open storefronts, and second floors and up have significant unrented space.

The city says that this will primarily affect "non-residents." That's code to aldermen that these saps aren't voters. What city officials fail to mention, or perhaps even notice, is that it's employers who pay for these parking passes — one way or another. Either they pick up the tab directly or they pay higher wages to staff members who now have to pay to park.

Manchester Mayor Ted Gatsas is caught in a squeeze because of Manchester's tax cap. Now the city is limping paycheck to paycheck looking at every short-term fee they can find. Even if he wanted to, the mayor can't look down the road. He has very little to no wiggle room to make it attractive for businesses to move downtown to rent those second-floor-and-up spaces, thereby increasing long-term building values and increasing tax revenues without raising taxes. He's caught in a loop of tacking on extra fees rather than trying to make Manchester a better place to do business and live.

The issue for Manchester is larger than the extra million it wants from the business community and residents in new parking fees — it's about a longterm vision for a city that could do anything. We're so fixed on the tax rate, the tax cap, that we aren't asking ourselves, where does the city want to be in five or 10 years?

It's easy to manage decline; cities in the Northeast did it for almost a half century. It takes big ideas and big risks to put a city on track to greatness — and that is not found in continually adding fees upon fees to an already struggling business community. Our governor, too, should take note.

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ON THE COVER
14 ADVENTURES IN SHOPPING



Have you ever shopped at a thrift store, or at the dump? Maybe it's time you did, because according to the Hippo's highly scientific research, you can find some amazing bargains. If you're looking for something a little more luxe, New Hampshire offers great opportunities to buy one-of-a-kind, hand-crafted furniture from local artisans. Or, men, if you're in need of a wardrobe update, you might consider looking outside mall walls to a more intimate outfitter that will help you out from shoe to jacket.
Also on the cover, find a day camp for your kids during February vacation, p. 30. And don't forget to vote in the Hippo's 2014 Best of readers' poll! Find all the info on p. 55.

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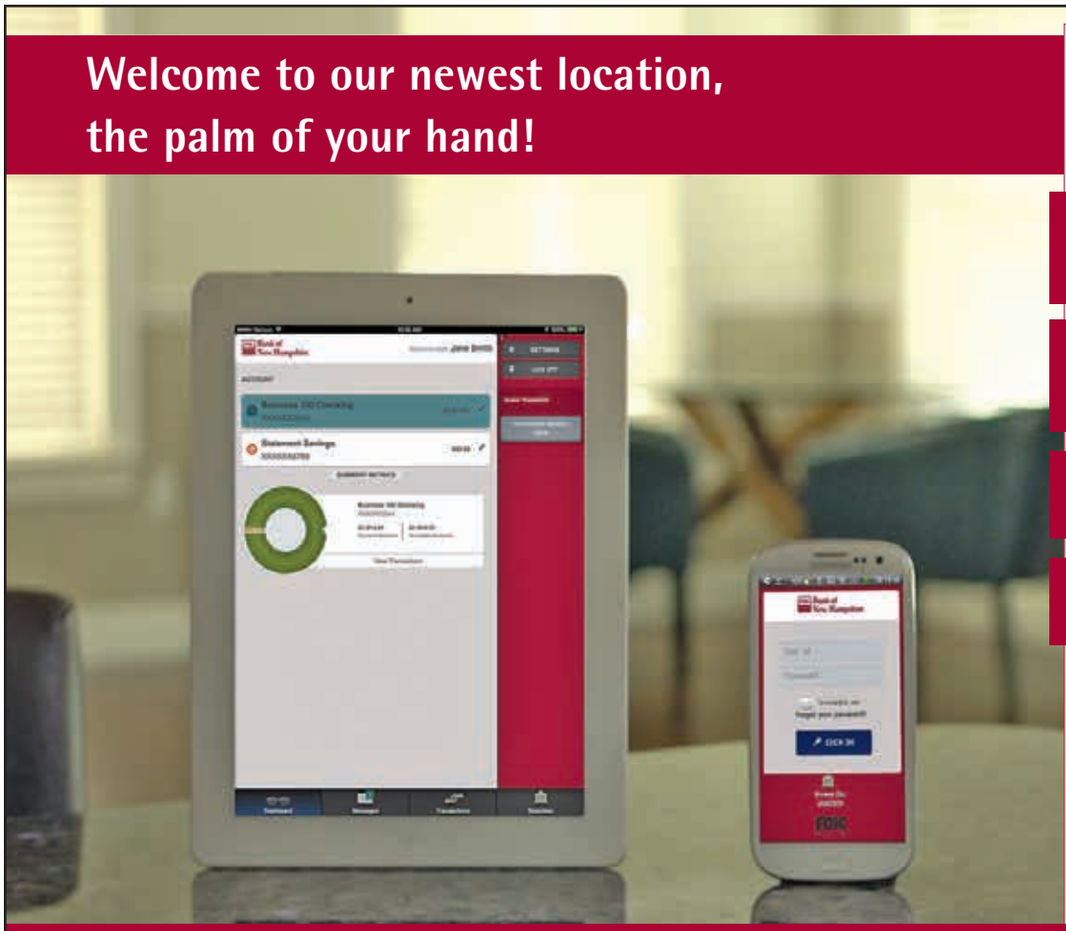
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NEWS & NOTES



Gov. Maggie Hassan

State of the State

Gov. Maggie Hassan gave her first State-of-the-State Address to a room of joint-session legislators Feb. 6. Hassan opened with a strong message about legislatures' ability to work collaboratively over the past year to live up to resident's "expectations and values" and build a stronger, more innovative New Hampshire. Her speech outlined her goals for the state's economy, education, transportation, safety and health care. She also reiterated her stance on hot issues, supporting the creation of a casino and pay-equity, and opposing the legalization of recreational marijuana.

Here are some highlights:

• Hassan did not state a direct opinion about the Northern Pass but said, "Expanding natural gas pipeline capacity for our region is one way to reduce energy costs in New Hampshire."

• Hassan outlined plans to connect more local businesses with schools to encourage preparing students for the jobs the state needs. She also urged schools to implement Common Core and focus on STEM education.

• She encouraged worker's compensation reform, stating that worker's compensation is more expensive than health care, and businesses ought to use that money on investments instead.

• True to form, Hassan encouraged lawmakers to vote in favor of the creation of one high-end casino, which she said would funnel money that otherwise goes to the Massachusetts economy back into the state.

• "A day's work deserves an equal day's pay," Hassan said, supporting the Paycheck Fairness Act, and equal wages for men and women. She also supported an increase in minimum wage.

• Sighting the increasing number of poor-condition roads and bridges, Hassan urged lawmakers to "reach a consensus solution to renew our investment in safe and modern roads and bridges."

• She reiterated her stance that while efforts in the past year resulted in a stronger mental health care system, legalizing marijuana in the state would be detrimental to the health of residents, and the state's youth in particular. "The state already has one of the highest rates of marijuana use by young people in the country, and marijuana has real, negative health effects, especially on adolescents," she said.

• Hassan urged lawmakers to pass "Joshua's Law." It would establish domestic violence as a crime and will help law enforcement and prosecutors better identify and stop repeat abusers, she said.

State-of-the-State Analysis

In the coming weeks, The Hippo will speak with the state's political scientists and analysts to examine more closely a few of Hassan's main points. We'll take a look at casinos, marijuana, health care and transportation points.

Pleading guilty

Msgr. Edward Arsenault, the former head of the Diocese of Manchester, will plead guilty to stealing at least $4,500 from a hospital, a deceased priest's estate and the state's Roman Catholic bishop, the Concord Monitor reported. According to the Attorney General's Office, he will plead guilty on all three counts at an April 23 hearing in Manchester. He will be ordered to pay full restitution to the victims on top of a prison sentence. From 1999 to 2009, Arsenault held several senior positions in New Hampshire. He resigned from his last job as CEO of Saint Luke Institute in Maryland in May after New Hampshire authorities said they were investigating allegations involving an inappropriate adult relationship and misuse of church funds, WMUR stated.

Moose monitoring

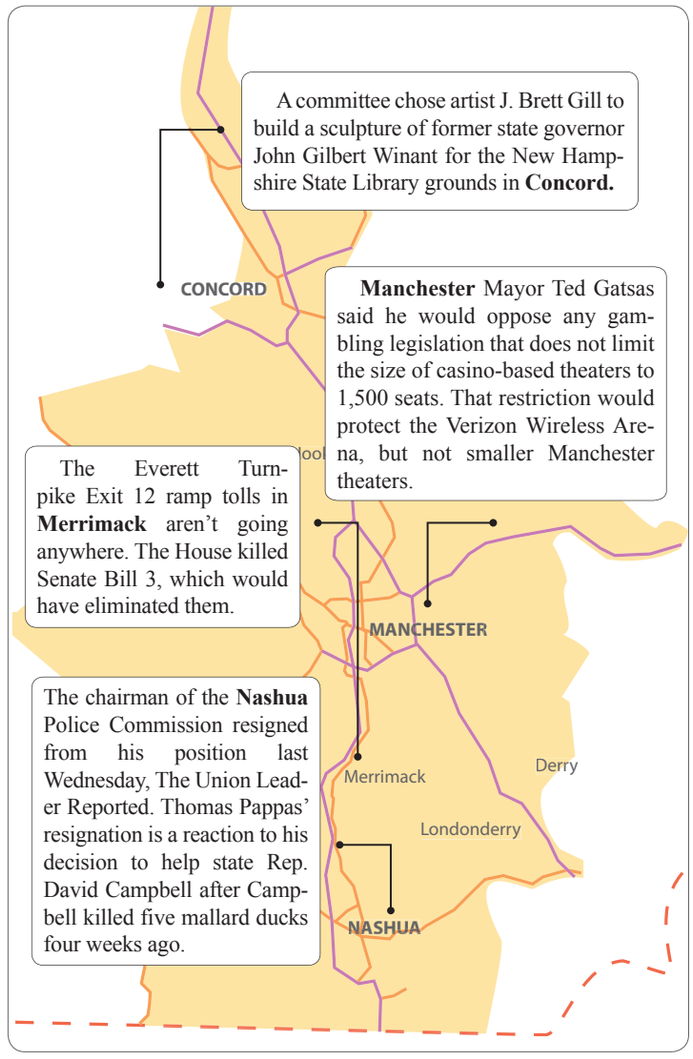
In order to understand why the state's moose population is thinning out, The New Hampshire Fish and Game is monitoring 43 moose, NHPR reported. Forty-three adult and calf moose got tracking collars in January, when the department took helicopters into the forests, then herded up the moose before using new guns to bring them to the ground. NHPR reported that moose biologist Kristine Rines said winter tick is the prime suspect in moose decline but researchers will look into other potential problems too. Fish and Game reports there are about 4,400 moose in New Hampshire. During the collaring, four calves died due to tranquilization.

"Griffin's Law"

There were tearful testimonies last week as the Criminal Justice Committee reviewed "Griffin's Law." The legislation proposes to include the death of an unborn child in New Hampshire's homicide statutes, WMUR reported. The bill gets its name from a 2012 crash that killed an unborn boy, who would have been the grandson of the bill's sponsor. According to WMUR, 38 states uphold fetal homicide laws.

Road salt overload

The state has been trying to cut down on its road salt use, but due to high amounts of ice and mixed precipitation this year the Department of Transportations may need to use next year's reserves, WMUR reported. The state has used 118,000 tons of salt and has 99,000 tons left. Halfway through the season, the DOT has used 65 percent of its $42 million maintenance budget.



Alternate routes

Facing pressure from the state's congressional delegation, the U.S. Department of Energy says it will publicize which alternatives to the route favored by the Northern Pass it plans to study, according to NHPR. Before the Northern Pass Project can get underway, the DOE must approve it. Approval rests largely on an environmental impact statement. While the statement will focus on the 187-mile route Northern Pass wants to use, the DOE will also evaluate alternative routes. Opponents hope a strategy for burying the line will be included. The state's congressional delegation sent a letter to the DOE asking it to disclose alternative routes so the public has sufficient time to comment, NHPR reported.

BEST WEEK

NH OLYMPIANS

Ten native New Hampshire athletes plus 13 more with strong state ties made it to the Sochi Olympics, which kicked off Feb. 6. Among them is James van Riemsdyk, who played at UNH and won gold with the U.S. U18 team at the IIHF championships in 2006. Veteran Olympian Bode Miller, an Easton native and downhill skier won gold, silver and bronze in the 2010 Vancouver games and two silvers in 2002 in Salt Lake City, according to the Associated Press. Laconia native Chas Guldemond, a slopestyle snowboarder, was a gold-medal winner at the X-Games and is competing in his first Olympics.

WORST WEEK

COLLEGE STUDENTS WHO WANT HEALTH INSURANCE

Requirements under the Affordable Care Act are causing health care costs to increase for the state's university students, NHPR reported last week. Last year Colby-Sawyer College offered a basic plan for $53 per month. Because that plan doesn't meet the stricter requirements, a new plan is being offered for $125 per month. As a result of the new price, the school relaxed its policy of mandating that all students carry coverage, and the number of students who bought it dropped from 300 to about 60, NHPR reported. Saint Anselm College's plan costs nearly 50 percent more than it did, and the New England College is up 25 percent. UNH and Dartmouth reported small price increases as well.

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For the birds

Backyard Winter Bird Survey and a 100th anniversary for the NH Audubon

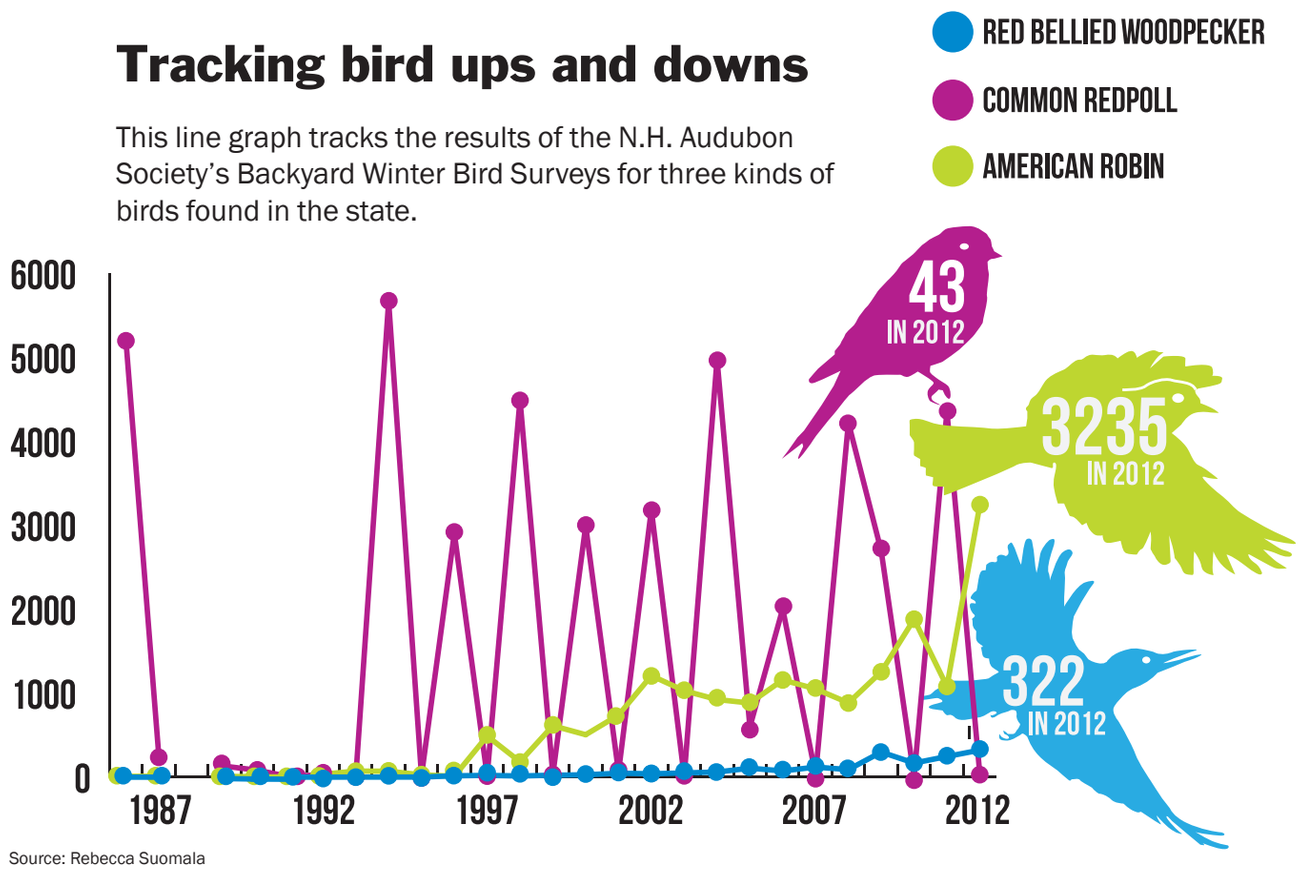
By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

During the Audubon's Backyard Winter Bird Survey Feb. 8 and Feb. 9, local bird enthusiasts helped biologists track long-term trends in the state's shifting bird population. The results of the survey will contribute to experts' understanding of New Hampshire's rising population of southern and northern birds and near-disappearance of some species that originally swooped in from the west.

The survey helps biologists look beyond year-to-year population changes caused by weather, said Rebecca Suomala, survey coordinator.

"Once you get past a certain point, you know you are no longer looking for an individual change that happened because of a snowstorm in one year," she said.

Last weekend participants across the state were on the lookout for any kind of bird. They could tune in for any length of time and were asked to record the maximum number of any one species they saw together in order to prevent duplication. Guessing at a type of bird spotted was discouraged, and they were asked to only report birds they could identify. Because negative data is just as insightful as sightings, bird watchers reported even if they saw no birds.



Source: Rebecca Suomala

Species ins and outs

Over the years the backyard bird survey has evolved. Before 1987, the Audubon surveyed for only a couple species of birds — the cardinal and the tufted tit mouse — because those species had begun to migrate to the state and the Audubon wanted to examine their distribution. In 1987 it expanded to include all bird types.

"Birds are very directly connected to the environment, so what happens to the environment affects their populations," Suomala said.

Biologists have identified an increase in birds that originally lived only in southern states. These southern birds tend to prefer suburban areas where there are more bird feeders. As those areas become less common down south, the birds move north, Suomala said. Consistently warmer winters also contribute to the pattern.

The northern cardinal and tufted tit mouse never used to be here, Suomala said. But in the past couple of years they've migrated even farther north into the White Mountains. And other southern species are following suit. Red bellied woodpeckers and Carolina wrens have been moving in quickly.

"We had a couple of record years," Suomala said.

Northern birds are up this year, too. Pine siskins and common red poles come south in an every-other-year pattern. It's a matter of food supply, as trees in the north produce larger seed crops every other year "so in years when trees produce a lot of food, there is plenty of food for the red poles and they stay up north, and not as much come," Suomala said.

One of the most startling new visitors is the snow owl, a large white bird that typically stays closer to the arctic tundra. Experts aren't entirely sure why sightings are up, but it may have to do with a population boom last summer and a shortage of food up north this winter, Suomala said.

But it's not all growth in the state. Biologists aren't sure what prompted house finches and evening grosbeaks to fly west in the early-to-mid 1900s, but winter surveys have consistently shown massive declines in both. House finch numbers dropped due to bouts of conjunctivitis disease, and an outbreak of spruce budworm, the most destructive native species in northern spruce and fir forests in the eastern United States, could be to blame for killing off grosbeaks, though it's not clear, Suomala said.

Audubon turns 100

The survey was extra special this year because the New Hampshire Audubon Society is celebrating its 100th anniversary.

"It's a milestone not everybody gets to reach. It means a lot of people for a long time have cared a great deal about birds and wildlife — put in resources, time and commitment to those causes," said Ruth Smith, centennial coordinator. "The work we're doing today rests on the shoulders of a lot of people who have come before us."

The Audubon Society has been committed to upholding the work of its 1914 founders, Smith said. That has meant dedication to both conservation and educational efforts. The Audubon's first secretary, Manley Townsend, initiated programs for hundreds of school children. Today education remains a strong element for the organization. It now reaches about 17,000 youth through schools, summer camps and public events throughout the state.

Audubon has contributed to some major preservation accomplishments too. Perhaps most notably: In the mid 1980s, New Hampshire's population of nesting bald eagles had virtually vanished; now, the iconic birds are back and nesting in 40 territories around the state. Last year was record-breaking.

Smith remembers the strange story of the eagle's return: "When the first eagle pair came back to nest in 1999, they returned to same exact tree that the last eagles had been in in 1949. The fact that the tree was still there and the land was protected made a difference. Audubon had a part in that. It captures the sense of importance of our work."

Celebrate at NH Audubon's 100th Birthday Bash

Join the Audubon Society for its first public birthday bash this weekend**.** The party in honor of New Hampshire's feathered friends will feature a puppet show about the history of NH Audubon and bird conservation. There will be bird-themed party hat-making and storytelling by "Jay Bird," as well as opportunities to meet a live hawk and owl. There will also be a decorated cake contest open to adults and families. Cakes will be on display from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and raffled to the winning ticket holders.

When: Saturday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Where: McLane Audubon Center, 84 Silk Farm Road, Concord

To learn more: visit nhaudubon.org/about/centennial or call 224-9909.

A gift to educators: This year, the Audubon is offering free membership for New Hampshire educators. "Our founders did it in 1914, and we thought, what a great idea," Smith said.

Protecting lecturers

UNH's lecturers inch closer to unionization

By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

When Sarah Hirsch began teaching as a Spanish lecturer at the University of New Hampshire seven years ago, she looked for a union representative but couldn't find one.

"I was thinking of course there would be one, but no. I let it drop and thought everything would be fine. But over the years, things haven't been exactly fine," said Hirsch.

Currently, there isn't much structure or definition to the lectureship position, Hirsch said. Depending on the department, some lecturers are allowed to attend departmental meetings and influence decision making, but in other departments lecturers are left out. There is also no language that explains sick day or personal day policies, access to personnel files and paternity or maternity leave. There's no grievance policy either.

"I started noticing some people having issues in hiring and firing, not having any recourse to defend themselves if they let go without any cause. It just seems like there is no clear policy about hiring and firing for lecturers," Hirsch said.

Since last July, many UNH lecturers have been working towards gaining union representation with The American Association of University Professors. Hirsch is serving as president of the organizing committee for the effort. In a final step to secure union standing, organizers are holding a vote at UNH Durham and Manchester campuses Feb. 12 and 13. To become an official union, organizers must earn 50 percent plus one votes from lecturers in favor of unionization.

Supporters hoping to gain representation through AAUP think the benefits will trickle throughout the university, Hirsch said. It would benefit to tenure-track faculty because the two groups would be more stable partners. Students would be better represented too, as lecturers tend to teach large, low-level courses and may be more familiar with the interests of a larger amount of the student body than other faculty members.

Fifteen years ago there were about 20 lecturers at UNH; now there are more than 200, Hirsch said. Some departments rely on lecturers to teach more than 50 percent of their courses.

"In any market, especially competitive markets, people come in and try to figure out how to deliver same service at lower costs in order to compete. That's the model lots of educational institutions are wrestling right now. How far do they go toward lecturers? How far do they go to adopting an online model?" said Dennis Delay, an economist at NH Center for Public Policy.

Traditionally, tenure track and tenured professors add to a university's credentials, Delay said. Tenure is awarded based on a faculty members' record of published research, ability to attract grant funding, academic visibility and teaching and administrative services. To lock in the best academics, incentives like higher salaries and protection of academic freedom are offered. But with fewer tenure-track positions available, more academics with outstanding credentials are hired as lecturers.

The Hippo was unable to reach UNH administrators for comment, but in mid-December, UNH provost Lisa MacFarlane and UNH president Mark Huddleston released a joint letter to lecturers, opposing unionization and highlighting some of the progress made toward improving policies and practices that affect lecturers without a union. It was followed with another letter released by Vice President of Finance and Administration Dick Cannon on Jan. 21. That letter warned lecturers that if a bargaining agreement was created, they would lose the ability to speak on their own behalf or on the behalf of colleagues to raise concerns locally in their own departments and to work through them with their dean.

"Direct communication and local,



Members of the UNH lecturers union organizing committee display initial votes in favor of unionization.

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individualized resolutions will no longer be available to you," Cannon stated. "Instead, collective bargaining and contract will govern our relationship, and we will be prohibited from direct communication on wages and other terms and conditions of employment."

On Dec. 5 the organizing committee filed a petition with the New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board. The petition was the initial step in obtaining certification of a bargaining unit, and while PELRB requires 30 percent of the organizing unit to be in favor of unionization, more than 70 percent of lecturers at both the Durham and Manchester campuses said they were in favor.

It has also received support from AAUP-UNH, the university's union organization for tenure-track and tenured professors. AAYP-UNH has come out publicly in favor of a lecturers union and has provided provided guidance and financial support.

"The number of lecturers has been growing rapidly, but the university has not been paying any attention to salaries, rights and grievances and due processes," said Deanna Wood, president of the Chapter AAUP- UNH.

In addition to the aforementioned protections, the AAUP places a special focus on helping non-tenure track unionizers secure protection of academic freedom traditionally reserved for tenured faculty. John Curtis, AAUP's director of research and public policy said the trend of increased unionization for contingent faculty positions has been going on for for years, but there's a new activism both among the faculty and labor organizations looking to achieve protection of academic freedom.

"[Non-unionized faculty] express that they feel reluctant to raise controversial issues or push students to do work they expect at the college level, because if a student complains about anything, really, they could lose their jobs," he said.

Prevention progress

Easing the state's youth substance use problem

By Rebecca Fishow
rfishow@hippopress.com

Though New Hampshire is commonly portrayed as one of the healthiest states in nation, said Tym Rourke, when it comes to substance abuse, the picture has been bleak.

Rourke, the director of public health for the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation, said New Hampshire outnumbers the rest of the country in instances of youth drug and alcohol use, and it ranks low when it comes to drug and alcohol prevention and treatment too.

But the statistics are beginning to garner attention and reaction. Most recently, the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation received a $2.25 million grant from the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation, a national organization that dedicates $48 million to substance abuse issues each year. NHCF will use the money to build up the state's youth drug screening and prevention infrastructure and protocol and aims to screen 10,000 of the state's young people from 12 to 17 years old for substance use issues by 2017.

Screening shortcomings

A host of factors could contribute to the state's drug use problem, Rourke said. As a region, New England fares worse than the rest of the country. And New Hampshire's lack of public financing for substance abuse prevention services sets the state apart from its neighbors. The state has the lowest per capita expenditures in prevention and treatment in the country and the second lowest treatment access rate behind Texas, he said.

Offering screening and brief intervention to people while they are young is key to preventing long-term problems, because most adults who abuse substances started when they were young, Rourke said.

Implementing routine screenings may seem like an obvious action for health care practitioners, but it rarely happens, he said. Practitioners often lack the necessary training and do not feel comfortable covering the subject.

That's what Melissa Silvey discovered. She is the director of public health and substance misuse prevention at Goodwin Community Health of Strafford County. Last July, Goodwin initiated a pilot screening project (which NHCF has examined closely) after Silvey found that healthcare professionals were not asking their patients about substance abuse.

"We'll have discussions with our patients about diabetes and asthma, but we were definitely not having conversations with our patients about substance abuse," she said. "It's a comfort level for physicians to talk about chronic diseases we're used to."

The reluctance was partially because medical providers already have a lot on their plates, Silvey said. So Goodwin created a team approach, assigning medical assistants the task of screening patients while doctors have the conversations with them. The strategy has resulted in screenings of all adult patients, and it has allowed Goodwin to identify those who ought to seek further treatment.



The Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention releases a five-year plan to reduce substance abuse in New Hampshire at a press conference in the Legislative Office Building in Concord, Feb. 22. Photo courtesy of Cheryl Senter.

NHCF's plan

The foundation will use its grant money in three ways in order to build what it hopes will become lasting early intervention practices within 12 nonprofit hospitals, primary care and community health practices chosen as partners.

First, these facilities will be embedded with required electronic health records software. Doctors and nurse practitioners also will be trained to ask young patients about substance abuse in addition to the regular questions posed during physicals.

Second, the New Hampshire Center for Excellence, run by the Community Health Institute, will be fashioned as a hub of technical assistance for the locations.

The final piece of the equation is forming an advocacy group that looks at issues that will come in to play at a state policy level, ensuring that patients' privacy is protected and protocol for a supportive environment is implemented.

How every site chooses to implement its program will be unique, Rourke said, but cross-site sharing will be helpful in learning new practices.

Screening youths from age 12 to 17 years old could present a new set of challenges. Youth can seek treatment at the age of 12 without parental consent, yet they are bound to work with parents for healthcare.

"So this will bring up issues with privacy," Silvey said.

As the Charitable Foundation begins discussions with potential healthcare partners, response has a been strong, Rourke said. The Charitable Foundation will collect requests for proposals in the second week of February and selected sites will be announced from mid to late April.

"Unlike some other efforts, this is not a pilot project," Rourke said. "The evidence is pretty clear that early screening is a way to reduce substance use."

State catches up

The state is beginning to react to the problem too. Since the 1980s, it has had limited resources for alcohol and drug prevention. Until that time, benefits were much more widely available in the private health insurance sector, said Joe Harding, director for the Bureau of Drug and Alcohol Services. When those resources went away, an undue burden was put on the public sector, particularly for treatment resources.

"The burdens to provide services were put almost entirely on the public sector, which just has not had the capacity to address these issues," Harding said.

But the implication of the new healthcare system has opened up resources for the state, he said. So it's a perfect time to get the ball rolling.

Last year, the Governor's Commision on Alcohol and Drug Abuse released a five-year strategic plan on combating the problem from multiple fronts. Creating the plan called "Collective Action - Collective Impact" involved about 2,000 stakeholders. Its efforts focus on six sectors of the healthcare system: safety workers, educators, the government, the business community, and family and community support.

The plan calls for early screening, increased support for substance use treatment through Medicaid, efforts to bolster public safety through funding of the Drug Task Force and an increased number of state troopers, among other actions.

"This is an issue that impacts all of these different systems, and so it really takes a comprehensive approach at the state and community level," said Harding, who also serves as executive director for the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

The plan is being implemented and monitored on a regular basis, Harding said. To track progress, an implementation task force will meet three times a year.

"New Hampshire has had a lot of conversations on the mental health crisis, and hospitals and medical centers have been at forefront of that," Rourke said. "So they've done this kind of change process already around [issues] related to substance abuse."

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NEWS & NOTES Q&A

Baseballer, shot caller

Fisher Cats get new head manager

He may have spent eight years as an infielder for the New York Yankees, but Bobby Meacham's not holding any grudges against Red Sox Nation. In fact, he's psyched to get to know it. After spring training in Florida in early March, Meacham, the new head manager for Toronto Blue Jays affiliate the New Hampshire Fisher Cats, will head north to the Granite State for the first time in his life. "A lot of people have been telling me about how beautiful it is up there," he said. "And I talked to some of the players about how much fan support they get, so I'm excited to come up."

Q: *How do you feel about being a former Yankees player coming to Red Sox Nation?*

I talked to someone a couple weeks ago and they were warning me. I was like, I can't help it. That's the only team that let me play in the big leagues. One reason I loved playing in New York is because of the fans, the knowledge of the fans — they're just all really informed and in touch with baseball. So I'm assuming Red Sox Nation, so to speak, is the same ilk as Yankees people — a lot of good fans, a lot of baseball knowledge. So I'm looking forward to it.



Bobby Meacham

How does the manager role in the minor leagues differ from the major leagues?

I got to coach up there for about six years of big leagues and in the minor leagues this might be my 17th, 18th year. There's always a fork in the road in decision-making as a coach, where you're either developing the player or you're trying to win the game. In the big leagues, you take the fork that says, 'Try to win.' In the minor leagues, you choose developing the player. That happens quite often in the minor leagues.

How do you know when a player is destined to make it to the major leagues?

I'd make a lot of money if I knew the answer to that question! The main ingredient is ability. It takes a certain level of excellence to be able to play with the best in the world. I'm talking about a certain amount of speed and a certain amount of power. In the minor leagues you're chosen because you have that ability. They all do. Then it gets funneled into the guys that can kind of put together that physical ability with the mental and kind of the emotional grind of it all. There's an ingredient they either develop or have from when they were little. When the bigwigs come to town, when there's a big series, some guys rise to the level and it brings out the best in them. And some guys, it brings out the worst, and they kind of shrivel a little. ... My job is to bring that out of them.

What is your on-field manager style?

The best way I can describe it is to be prepared and be aggressive. ... The best way to be aggressive without being stupid is to have a lot of information. My style is to know my players and make sure they know me. That frees them up to use all the information they get. I say, if it makes sense go ahead and do it.

From a fan's standpoint, what should the audience expect from players of this level?

I think one thing that was expected of me [as a player] is learning from mistakes. I've played under Billy Martin, and he was by far the best manager I have ever seen. He was hard on his players, but he basically expected them to learn. So if he teaches me something I need to learn from it. So fans can expect players to make mistakes, but only once. They'll never make the same mistake twice. It's only going to be one time, and they're going to learn from it.

When the Fisher Cats play Portland, a Red Sox farm team, the majority of the fans will be there because they're curious about the Portland team or rooting for them. How will you deal with that scenario?

My goal is to help the players more than the fans. So my reaction to that is to figure out some way to get the players excited to be playing for a crowd at home that's not really for them. It's kind of a psychological thing you use to your advantage. We'll sway the audience in our direction by just the way we play. ... We're going to play so hard, they're going to like the way we play. So we'll sway those Red Sox fans to appreciate our style.

— *Rebecca Fishow*

Five favorites

Favorite movie: There's a couple at the top there. I'll pick *Facing the Giants*. It's a Christian movie, and it's really cool. Another is *Braveheart*. And probably my favorite is *Men of Honor*.
Favorite book: The Bible
Favorite type of music: I like contemporary Christian music
Favorite food: Probably chicken chili.
Favorite thing about NH: I can't answer that yet.

QUALITY OF LIFE INDEX

Goodbye, great poet

One of the state's great wordsmiths, award-winning New Hampshire poet Maxine Kumin passed away last Thursday, according to NHPR. A resident of Warner, Kumin was poet laureate of the state from 1989 to 1994, and her work *Up Country: Poems of New England* won her the Pulitzer Prize in Poetry in 1973. "Practically all of [my poems] have come out of this geography and this state of mind," she told interviewer Joan Norris for an article published by Crazy Horse, a literary journal.

QOL rating: -3

Comment: *Kumin had a knack for capturing the state's unique beauty. In her poem "Where I live," she wrote: "Granite erratics/ humped like bears/ dot the outermost pasture/ where in tall grass/ clots of ovoid scat."*

A bullet in a school?!

A bullet was found in West Running Brook Middle School in Derry last Thursday. The city's police chief Capt. Vern Thomas said a student brought it to the school but dropped it before it was found by a custodian, according to a Union Leader report. Thomas said there was no weapon or threat to anyone's safety, so no charges were filed.

QOL rating: -1

Comment: *How exactly could bringing a bullet into school seem like a good idea, ever? QOL remembers middle school, and it's scary enough without bullets around.*

Vegas, baby

Southwest Airlines, the Manchester-Boston Regional Airport's largest air carrier, is resuming non-stop seasonal flights from Manchester to Fort Lauderdale and Las Vegas, according to flymanchester.com. The seasonal nonstop flights to Vegas will begin in June and operate Saturdays through Aug. 2, and the nonstop flights to Fort Lauderdale will operate for peak travel periods in February and April. Currently, Southwest offers several one-stop flights per day.

QOL Score: +1

Comment: *"We are very pleased and thankful that Southwest is restoring non-stop service to Las Vegas and Fort Lauderdale," airport Director Mark Brewer said on the website. "These two cities fall within our top 10 destinations."*

CVS vows to be healthier

The country's largest drugstore chain in overall sales announced last week that it will stop selling cigarettes and other tobacco products by October, as reported by the New York Times last week. Part of its effort to become more of a health care provider, the company estimates the cut will shave $2 billion of its $123 billion in sales. This will affect all 25 CVS locations in the Granite State, according to cvs.com.

QOL Score: +1 for healthy healthcare providers

Comment: *"It's a real contradiction to talk about all of the things we're doing with people to help them on their path to better health and at the same time sell tobacco products," CVS CEO Larry Merlo in an interview with CBS News.*

QOL score: 57
Net change: -2
QOL this week: 55

What's affecting your Quality of Life here in New Hampshire? Let us know at news@hippopress.com.





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Celtics at mid-season means assessment 2.0



Even though they've only got 28 games left in an 82-game schedule, most likely by the time you read this your Boston Celtics will be on their mid-season All-Star Game break vacation to regroup from a January that not even their mothers could love, a month that put them solidly in the draft lottery sweepstakes.

The worst in franchise history 2-15 January aside, this year was to be all about evaluating who would be part of the core moving forward as they rebuild and who would not. It was also for **Danny Ainge** to maneuver for additional assets (draft picks) as those determinations were made, and to whittle away at their up against the $73 million salary cap that has damaging effects going forward if breached. So, faulty mathematics aside, with 54 games already played, Danny's had enough time to make those determinations, and with the trade deadline a week away he's probably in the bunker plotting as we speak.

If you are a regular reader of this column and haven't figured it out: I wouldn't mind being a general manager, preferably of the Celtics. Or at least I am arrogant enough to think I can do it. So over the next two weeks, I'm going to talk about where the process stands and what steps I'd take if I were in Danny's shoes.

The Maneuvering: He's done nothing splashy, but he's made some nice secondary moves. He shaved $5.7 million off the cap for 2014-15 by trading **Courtney Lee** to Memphis for **Jarod Bayless**' expiring contract. He also pulled off a near miracle turning two surprising months by **Jordan Crawford** into a possible first-round pick by dealing him (and **Marshon Brooks**) to Golden State. Although it's more likely it'll be two seconds unless the equally rebuilding 76ers miraculously make the playoffs this year or next. Though if cap space is a priority, why send out $3.7 million in expiring contracts in favor of paying **Joel Anthony** $3.3 million next year? I guess that's the price of those draft picks. A major bullet was also dodged when a deal for Houston big **Omar Asik** didn't happen, as giving up Lee, **Brandon Bass** AND a first-round pick for a guy who can barely make a lay-up was FAR too much, especially since Houston was desperate to get rid of him. Still he gets an A for what he got for non-core players, as does **Brad Stevens** for getting something out of two guys **Doc**

Rivers got almost nothing from last year.

These are the players I'd move forward with next year, unless the right deal comes along:

Avery Bradley: As expected, by playing exclusively at the two he's become a reliable scorer to go along with his defensive pluses. Playing with **Rajon Rondo** makes it an undersized back court, but that can be addressed in the draft.

Jared Sullinger: He's got size on defense and injury issues. But he scores down low, has great hands, can pass and is a great offensive rebounder, though the three-point shooting bugs me. I know he's got a green light, and getting better than his current 25-percent shooting will help his game, but every time he lines one up, **Antoine Walker** flashes before my eyes, whose exit visa was hastened by a bad long-range shooter falling in love with shooting threes.

Kelly Olynyk: He's had an uneven rookie year and hasn't been the same since spraining his ankle. But I've seen enough to want to see more. He reminds me of **Jack Sikma**, because he can shoot with range, can run the floor, is a very good passer and will get his share of rebounds. What he needs is upper body strength and to trade the "gee whiz I'm in the NBA" attitude for some swagger. I see him as a versatile big providing serious production off the bench at 4 and 5.

The Rest of the Roster: While each has plu,ses, nothing has changed about **Brandon Bass**, **Kris Humphries** and **Gerald Wallace**. I've been surprised by Humphries, but letting his contract expire shaves $12 million more off the cap. And in the right situation Bass might bring something decent back from a team that thinks it can win if it adds depth off the bench, like the rumor Phoenix might give one of its four first-round picks and **Emeka Okafor**'s expiring $14 million contract in a deal for him. Pull that deal off and somehow get **Gerald Wallace**'s $10 million per off the books and that's $36 million in cap savings which would be like hitting one of those penny stocks in *The Wolf of Wall Street*.

Jeff Green: The hardest thing to overcome in evaluating talent is being blinded to what a player doesn't do by the things he can do. That is what I had to fight with Green, who can do ANYTHING to ANYBODY when the mood strikes. His problem is consistency, and while he's totally professional I think the reason is the wins and losses just aren't important enough to him. Because if he had the desire to reach his goal like the demented **Jordan Belfort** had to reach his in *The Wolf of Wall Street*, Green would be challenging **Paul George** for the best NBA "3" not named **LeBron** or KD. So if the right deal comes along I'd move on.

Rajon Rondo: Many want to trade him because they love point guards who can shoot. I don't. But others worry he'll be too old to lead them when they are good again. That's legit, though again, I know they went from 27 wins to 67 in one year after trading for Ray and KG, so I'm not worried about that one either. One thing I absolutely wouldn't do is trade him for picks unless I knew EXACTLY what they are, which meansI'd wait until after the season's over before even considering any deal.

Part II next week on what moves to make.

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Good recruiting Knight

The Big Story: The local highlight of the UNH football take on the annual Feb. 5 signing day was that Nashua South all-world QB **Trevor Knight** selected to stay put in New Hampshire to play his college ball with the Wildcats. He goes off a tremendous senior season where her threw for 1,800 yards and ran for 1,533 while accounting for an astonishing 38 TDs overall, and with four picks as a DB he doubles the two measly ones he had at QB. He'll be joined at the U by two other New Hampshire products in Hanover WR/DB **Shawn Cavallaro** and **Jared Kuehl**, a linebacker/running back out of Plymouth.

This Just In: The Red Sox World Series Trophy is coming to town for its first visit on Saturday. It'll be on display in the main showroom at Auto Fair Hyundai (across from the Mall of NH) from 4 to 6 p.m. Get your picture taken with the trophy. Contact Andre Kujawa: 634-1070, akujawa@autofair.com.

Sports 101: **Babe Ruth** is one of only two players to hit 40 or more in five consecutive seasons. Who is the other?

Knick of Tyme Award: To **Yordy Tavarez**, whose three-pointer at the buzzer made Nashua South a 71-68 winner over neighboring Alvirne and moved the Panthers to 6-3 after Tuesday's win.

Knick of Tyme II Award: **Andrew Putney**'s power-play goal 27 seconds into overtime lifted Manchester Memorial to 6-3-2 with a 2-1 Division I ice hockey win over Nashua North Thursday at JFK Coliseum.

Knick of Tyme III Award: It goes to **Makenah Grisson** for scoring the last 6 points in the waning minutes to take Memorial from a 50-48 deficit to a 54-50 win over Keene on Tuesday. Those 6 gave Grisson 10 for the game while **A. J. Akot** nearly notched a triple double with 15 points, 10 rebounds and six dimes.

Big Win of the Week: It goes to Trinity taking out Bishop Guertin 59-54 in the battle of once beaten teams on Friday. The Pioneers got the win despite being shut out for the entire 8 minutes of the third period and over 2 minutes to start the fourth and not scoring from the field until game-high scorer **Weynen Gabriel** (18 points, 15 rebounds) scored with 2:26 left in the game. Still they came away with the win to move to 10-1.

Sports 101 Answer: **Ralph Kiner**, who died last week and whose 50-year New York Mets broadcasting career obscured his stellar Hall of Fame playing career, hit 51, 40, 54, 47 and 42 between 1947 and 1951 to join the Babe as the only players to hit 40 homers or more in five straight seasons.

On This Day – Feb. 13: **1920** – Negro Baseball League organizes. **1937** – NFL Boston Redskins move to Washington, D.C. **1989** – While leaving a local elementary school after giving a "Don't take drugs" talk, Oklahoma QB **Charles Thompson** is arrested for selling cocaine. **Born: 1947 – Mike Krzyzewski. 1977 – Randy Moss.**

The Numbers

3 – consecutive wins by Bedford as they try to right the ship after a frustrating start to 2013-14 in a 52-44 win over Concord when **Ryan Brown** continued his intense play from last week by scoring a game-high 18 points.

17 – offensive rebounds for the Pinkerton girls as the train kept rolling as the Astros moved to 10-1 after a showdown win against Londonderry in a 52-31 win over Central when **Kayla Stacy** led all scorers with 14 points.

18 – saves made by goaltender **Curis Wirbal** in leading Trinity to its third straight win in a 2-1 decision over Hanover that made them 9-3 after **Drew Merrick** got the game-winner with 5:06 left in overtime.

23 – game-high points scored by **Eric Gendron** after being saddled with foul trouble the past two games to lead once defeated Merrimack to a 49-41 win over Winnacunnet on Tuesday. **Shayne Bourque** chipped in with 11 more.

34 – week Division I point total from **Treyvon Maughm** in Memorial's 72 -55 win over Keene when **Kabongo Ngalakulondi** was next highest with 16.

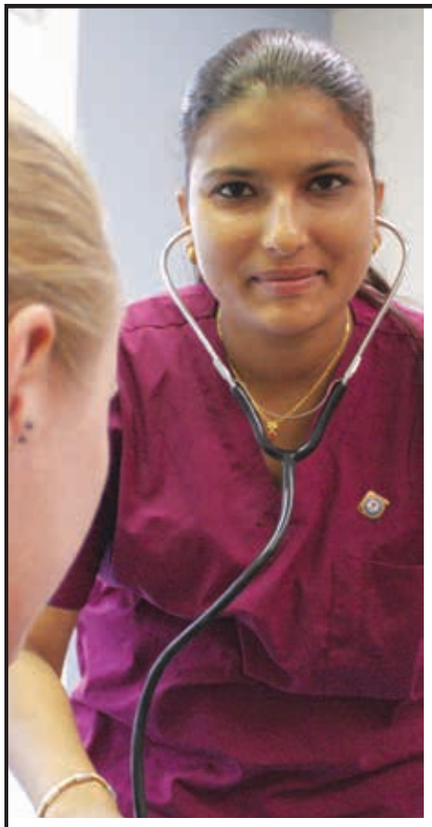
20,400 – number of baseballs being taken by the Red Sox to spring training in 2014.

Sports Glossary

Jack Sikma: Solid NBA center/power forward with Seattle and Milwaukee stretching from 1977 to 1991. Not overpowering, but scored with a good mid-range game reaching as high as 19.6 per in 1981-82 and was a double-digit rebounder in eight seasons. Lead the Supersonics to back-to-back finals appearances in '78 and '79, winning once. Not quite a Hall of Famer, but playing in seven All-Star games ain't bad.

Jordan Belfort: Deranged, real-life New York money man whose life is depicted in the major Hollywood picture *The Wolf of Wall Street*. You want to see the desire of someone who goes after what he wants, which in his case was money, sex, drugs and flat-out debauchery, watch this one. He got it all in a big way, but the lust eventually spun his life out of control to the inevitable crash landing. One big chink the movie skims over is all the money he swindled from his clients and that makes him seem less of a creep than he actually was.

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A study funded by the federal government is being conducted to determine how these training opportunities help people to improve their skills and find better jobs. During the study, eligible applicants will be selected by lottery to receive healthcare training. Not all eligible individuals will be selected to participate.

088447



ADVENTURES IN SHOPPING

Whether your paycheck barely covers the rent or you've got cash burning a hole in your pocket, you can head out on a shopping adventure and come back with some amazing finds, from $5 thrift store jeans to hand-carved, one-of-a-kind wood furniture.

Kelly Sennott set out on a lunch-break excursion to the nearest thrift shop and found herself surrounded by bargains that she had a hard time passing up — in fact, she didn't walk away empty-handed. Emelia Attridge talked to local men's clothing stores about the benefits of building a relationship with the person who's dressing you, and she got some style tips too. Rebecca Fishow went to the other extreme — she headed to some transfer station thrift shops, where no one knows where anything came from, and no one really cares — especially when they snag a gem (like a coffee maker! or a canoe!) for free or cheap. And finally, Kaitlin Joseph went high-end in her quest for local, custom-made furniture. Turns out the state has some hugely talented furniture makers for those looking to invest in unique high-quality pieces.

This is freaking awesome

Amazing finds at local thrift shops

By Kelly Sennott
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Last Thursday, I bought barely-worn J.Crew jeans at Eliza's & Weepeats Fine Consignment for $5 during work hours. Editor's orders. (*Ed. note: The orders were to go check out the shop, its inventory and its prices. No one was ordered to buy jeans in the making of this story.*)

I pretended to complain about this assignment (*Ed. note: True story*), maybe to conceal the fact that shopping at noon on a weekday isn't really work for me. Once I got back to the office, I hid the jeans far under my desk so my co-workers wouldn't get jealous.

These jeans are awesome. They fit me just the right way, because that's how J. Crew does it, and normally, they're at least $60. It's a sale you're *never* going to see otherwise — not at the outlet sale rack and not during the store's 50-percent off clearance sale.

Eliza & Weepeats owner Laurie Wilder wishes there were more young people (like me) who'd shop and even sell at consignment stores.

"They're just throwing or giving away trash bags of old clothes, when really, they could be making money by selling their clothes here," Wilder said in an interview at the shop on Elm Street in Manchester. "Lots of consignment stores are family-owned, and by shopping at them, you're keeping money local and recycling."



A bird's eye view of OutFITters Thrift Store Boutique in Concord. Courtesy of Families in Transition.

Truth be told, if I were 16 again, I'd do my prom completely differently. First, I'd buy the $15 slate grey, v-neck dress with glittering silver detail hanging in the back of the store. (Though there'd be stiff competition between that and the strapless, plum floor-length dress two racks down). I'd go for the shiny, like-new black pumps set in the middle of the store for $4.50 or the strappy silver sandals lined with gemstones for $9. For jewelry, it'd be the blue, silver and white beaded necklaces originally from Croft & Barrow, sold here for $12.50.

(Had I stayed longer, I probably would have purchased the bright, multi-colored beaded necklace next to it for $10, the hardly-worn black shorts from Ann Taylor for $4.50 or the Nine West black boots for $16.)

New To You, a Concord consignment store that sells high-end recycled fashion, is looking to draw these teenagers in with a program called Prom on a Budget happening March 20.

"Right now we're in the peak of our prom season. … A limo company and a hair salon will be coming by that day, and people can book their limos and hair appointments at extreme discounts," said New To You owner Nicole Vera in a phone interview.

The shop often sees between 50 and 100 new items a day, all of which are



OutFITters Thrift Store Boutique is on Main St. in Concord. Courtesy of Families in Transition.

organized on the floor by size and color.

"We sell shoes, jewelry and prom dresses. ... Typically 200 in a prom season, and they're really nice dresses at affordable prices," Vera said.

Another plus to shopping thrifty: it's never predictable, said Michell Talwani, Director of Economic Development and Marketing at Families in Transition.

"The beauty of a thrift store is that you never know what you're going to find," Talwani said in a phone interview.

The nonprofit houses two thrift stores in New Hampshire: OutFITters Thrift Store in Manchester and the OutFITters Thrift Store Boutique in downtown Concord, both of which collect donated items every day.

The Manchester storefront is organized like a department store: the front of the store contains women's clothing; the middle, kids' and men's clothing; after that, cutlery and dishes; and at the back of the store is a variety of furniture. It's all in decent condition and ridiculously priced — at a recent visit, there was a kitchen table in fine condition for $15 and at least a handful of printers priced between $4 and $8.

The Concord spot, Talwani said, has more of an upscale, boutique feel. It's in an old Victorian home, right on Main Street, and each room is furnished or decorated with the items on sale. The nonprofit invited a representative from Talbots to help visually merchandise the store. Talwani says FIT is hoping to open another thrift store in Dover in the near future.

"A lot of people who have never come in before are surprised to see how nice it is inside," Talwani said. "I think that, in some instances, there's a bad rep of what you're going to find in a thrift store."

The other plus of being thrifty

A handful of local thrift stores simply exist to help New Hampshire residents.

At OutFITters Thrift Store, for instance, 100 percent of the store's proceeds benefit Families in Transition, a nonprofit agency that serves the homeless in Manchester and Concord.

Volunteers help run these stores — they help organize the floors, sort through donations and price items, along with a core group of regular staff members — but more than anything, the stores work as a "for-profit arm of the nonprofit organization," Talwani said.

The idea came from FIT president Maureen Beauregard. The nonprofit was receiving many, many donations from the community, so many that organization didn't have room for them all.

"The quantity was too hard to manage," Talwani said. "We were also looking at the financial situation of the organization. Our funds come from grants. … So the board of directors figured out a way to leverage the donations in a way that would enable FIT to keep growing." For information on how to donate, visit outfittersnh.org.

The proceeds from Lucky Dog Thrift Store in Nashua also benefit a local nonprofit. Tails to Freedom, the business's parent company, is a charitable organization that works to neuter local animals and help provide for locals' emergency vet bills. The store gets calls every day asking for help, owner Kat Ranalletti said in a phone interview.

The store sells most everything, and at inexpensive prices, from clothing and housewares to electronics and books. Everything sold here has been donated by locals, many of whom choose to give to or shop here specifically because of the nonprofit's nature, she said.

At New To You in Concord, after the originally consigned clothing has run its course, the unused items are donated to the Concord Boys & Girls Club, Girls Inc. and the local homeless shelter.

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Looking dapper

Men's apparel retailers offer more than advice

By Emelia Attridge
eattridge@hippopress.com

For Dick Avard, helping customers find the right suit runs in the family. His grandfather opened the first men's clothing store in downtown Nashua in 1929, his father owned a clothing store downtown, and Avard opened Dick Avard's Haberdashery (a fun synonym for an outfitter of men's clothing) on Main Street in 1981.

Since, Avard has seen the times and the trends change.

"It's in our blood," Avard said. "When I first opened up back in '81, the guys that all worked downtown were all wearing suits. Now, times have changed and dress-down Fridays happened. Now it's dress-down every day of the week."

Dennis Labbe, salesperson at George's Apparel in Manchester agrees.

"The men's suit business is not what it used to be," Labbe said.

Though local independent men's retailers are far and few between as they compete with corporate men's apparel stores, retailers like Dick Avard's, George's and Britches of Concord find that their customers are shopping local — and loving it — for a few reasons.


Britches of Concord offers both men's and women's clothing, including dress shirts, ties and accessories. Emelia Attridge photo.

Get to know your suit guy

Chances are when shopping at a box store, you won't be fitted by the same salesperson that helped you the last time (and he probably won't remember what your kids were doing last time you met either).

"I don't think a day goes by that we


Salesman Dennis Labbe shows off a men's sweater in George's Apparel's sportswear section. Emelia Attridge photo.



Get suited up at George's Apparel or shop its casual, sportswear and business casual wear. Emelia Attridge photo.

don't have someone say, 'I'm bringing my son in for the first time. My dad brought me here, his dad brought him here,'" George's Apparel salesman Paul Dwyer said. "So, you have generations of shoppers. It's not just a regular base, but we have a new base that's being introduced by the regular base."

Labbe said he will often see a son of a regular customer come in for high school prom, then for the suit for his first job interview, followed by his whole party of groomsmen for his wedding.

Dwyer, Avard and Ray Boucher, owner of Britches in Concord, all agree that shopping local allows customers to establish a relationship (sometimes even a life-long relationship) with one salesperson and, in many instances, the owner.

"He is also there after the sale to handle any and all issues with the purchase," Boucher said. "He also keeps track of your size and lets you know via e-mail, phone, or postcard of upcoming store events and promotions. The person at the chain store may not be there the next time you are in the market to make a purchase."

"I think you lose that in a big box store," Dwyer said. "People come here for the experienced sales staff."

Custom tailoring

Custom made attire is trending in men's wear. At Dick Avard's Haberdashery there's an array of swatches with colors and fabrics for suits and dress shirts allowing men to design their own outfit.

"There is definitely a trend in custom clothing for men," Boucher said. "Guys are looking for 'old world' tailoring in suits and sportcoats with special styles, linings and and button treatments. It becomes very personal with a garment that is made just for them. This is especially good for the hard to fit who cannot buy 'off -the-rack' suits or jackets."

And with newer clientele also comes new fashion trends.

"One of the main trends right now in menswear is the move toward a slimmer silhouette in everything," Boucher said. "Shirts, suits, sport coats and outerwear are designed to hug the body much more."

The staff at George's Apparel tailor shop were used to taking sides in and closing the vents, Labbe said, but now younger men are asking for tight, slim tailoring and request the vents at the bottom of the coat open.

"They're looking for something more classic," Avard said. "They realize what the benefits are by looking better."

Style guide

Ray Boucher, owner of Britches of Concord, offers his tips on looking good and staying trendy.

Have some ideas for your wardrobe.

"Start with a good blazer — either navy or black. A nice pair of either grey, tan or taupe dress trousers in microfiber or wool. A good quality khaki pant goes a long way as well."

Take care to look good.

"Make sure the sleeves on shirts and jackets are the right length. Also, trousers you wear should be the right length as well. I see people everyday with pants up to their ankles or dragging on the ground. … I cannot stress enough the importance of well polished shoes. It can make you look great without spending a fortune. … Having your shirts and trousers pressed gives you a good look as well."

Add some color.

"Tan suit or jacket with a white shirt for summer is a must. Plus, it looks cool when outside temp is hot. Gray and navy suits with colorful shirts and ties. Right now, anything in purple, bold green, and orange is trending. A black suit, white shirt and a silver tie looks very elegant as well especially for more formal events."

Check out accessories that are trending.

"Pocket squares are being worn by guys much more because you can still have a little color once you take your tie off and a jacket on. It really looks great. No standard way to wear them. You can stuff in the pocket with square points showing or just have a little puff showing over top of pocket. Another trend is folded white pocket squares straight across the pocket with suits. Also, guys are wearing more colorful sox with their dress clothing. Not uncommon to see guys with crazy motifs or colors of purple, pink, yellow, red, etc. on their ankles."

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Shop at the dump

Find some gems for free or cheap

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Lee's transfer station swap shop is affectionately known as "The Lee Mall." Photo courtesy of Roger Rice.

Maybe you need a new lamp but you're a little short on cash, or, on the flip side, you've got an extra lamp taking up space that isn't quite ready for the garbage bin. In either case, it might be time for a trip to the dump.

Many local transfer stations have either swap shops, where you can grab stuff for free, or secondhand stores that offer used things cheap. These shops mean you don't have to toss anything that might be valuable to someone else, and you can pick up something new to you, too.

The swap shop opt

Most swap shops don't look like much from the outside. The Lee Swap Shop is a small wooden building heated with space heaters.

"It's kind of close to a shack, to be honest,"said Roger Rice, Lee transfer station manager. But that hasn't stopped the popular spot from earning the nickname "The Lee Mall."

While the physical buildings may look like glorified tool sheds, these shops hold lots of goods, and always a few gems. Every swap shop has its own regulations as to what type of items are accepted. Clothing, toys, books, and housewares are all popular, as are Christmas items during the holidays.

> "My goal is to always come home with less than I bring, so I try not to get too much stuff."
>
> DENNIS KOCH

Quality levels of the stuff you will find can range from barely used to a little banged up.

"Something strange comes through it feels like every week," Rice said. "We take anything in like a typical swap shop that is reusable, and anything that isn't finished with its life yet. So it doesn't just sit in a landfill."

Some of the luckiest swap-shoppers have walked away with items like nearly-perfect canoes. Rice even browses the tradeables himself.

"Everything has a lot of life left in it. If we need to change out our coffee pot in the office, we go there," he said.

Swap shops are fun for the whole family. When the Deerfield swap shop is open (in the spring, summer and fall; it's closed in the winter) it's always really busy, said Dennis Koch, a Deerfield resident. He sees lots of families with children and sometimes brings his own. The neatly organized shop has a wide selection of the typical yard sale-type stuff like books, plates and glassware. But it also has an impressive collection of things kids easily outgrow: toys and clothes, baby gear like playpens car seats and swings, and sports equipment like baseball mitts, skates and skis.

"[The kids] like it," Koch said. "My goal is to always come home with less than I bring, so I try not to get too much stuff. But sometimes they see stuff and they want to take it home."

Swap shops are popular with all sorts of people, and if you're especially environmentally-minded, you'll fit right in here.

"I would say for the most part it's people who hate to see things thrown away and wasted," Rice said. "While it's popular with people who are older ... it's becoming very vogue with young people. That [consumer] mentality is starting to grate on people's nerves with how we run a society. A lot of people would like to see things reused."

The second hand solution

Not all municipalities opt for the swap shop model. In Bedford, Gus Pappajohn has owned and run the second hand shop at the transfer station for the past 11 years.

Walking through the Bedford shop is like taking a trip through your grandmother's attic. Not your hoards-everything grandmother — the one who knows how to identify the heirlooms that could very well become collector's item, or at least a conversation-started years down the line. Inside the simple wood building (that doesn't have running water) is a crowded room of good quality things. Framed landscape paintings are hung side-by side on the walls next to old-fashioned wall clocks. Chandeliers hang from the ceiling and antique lamps with elegant shades illuminate the room's cluttered corners. Chairs



A shopper heads out of the Bedford transfer station's secondhand store. Photo by Rebecca Fishow.

with woven seats are stacked on top of each other and to one wall, tall china cabinets display porcelain plates and tea cups, pressed or cut-glass bowls and vases and curious, smiling nicknacks. There's even a guitar or two in Pappajohn's mix.

"We try to have the best quality things we can find," he said. "You got to go the extra mile in order for it to be advantageous. Otherwise it's just an expense people will incur by running the contract shop."

As a contract shop, prices vary, but Pappajohn prefers to sell the best: hardwood rather than pressed wood furniture — that kind of thing. Nothing too banged up. Occasionally, he'll do repair work on items that are worth fixing, but if well-meaning people bring him soiled or broken items he ends up walking those up the hill to the transfer station trash. He doesn't sell clothes, but there's a clothing recycling station nearby.

"It's a really neat shop," he said. "It's one of a kind … I've had other transfer stations come in and say 'How can we run it like that?'"

Running the store this way was partially a matter of necessity. Many years ago, Bedford, along with Manchester and Nashua, attempted the swap shop model. But Manchester and Nashua soon closed their doors because of foul play and fights that often broke out.

"What happened was people wind up taking advantage of it," Pappajohn said. "That's why Manchester and Nashua closed theirs. It became a matter of people waiting for other people to drop things off and it caused fights. So by doing it as a contract shop, pretty much everything is for sale."

That's good news for those of us who prefer the most dramatic part of shopping experiences to be the excitement of finding that have-to-have piece.

Forever furniture

Shopping for quality and longevity

By Kaitlin Joseph
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Your home's furniture is a reflection of your personality and style.

Richard Oedel of New Hampshire Furniture Masters, a group of artisans in the area who design one-of-a-kind furniture pieces, knows how important it is to fill your home with quality furniture that makes you happy.

The Furniture Masters can make a variety of unique pieces for your living room, kitchen, bedroom, home office, entryways and dining rooms. Oedel said the benefit of working with the Furniture Masters is that you have the option of working one on one with an artisan to craft the kind of piece you're looking for.

"You get to work with someone local that you can relate to and has a different way of thinking of something, the integrity of the piece and quality of the design, all the way to the execution," Oedel said.



A bench designed and carved by Jeffrey Cooper. Courtesy photo.

Oedel said that while prices might be higher than if you were to pick up a dresser or a nightstand at bigger chain store, it's well worth the investment.

"If you are looking for long term enjoyment, and you go to [chain furniture stores], you get what they make — here, you get what you live with and that's the difference," Oedel said. "It's saying this is a personal statement that I can love for many years."

Furniture Master Jeffery Cooper agreed

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Designed and carved by Jeffrey Cooper. Courtesy photo.

that his customers don't come to him because they need something cheap or temporary.

"It's a different kind of client," Cooper said of those looking for furniture from him. "They're looking for something that can be an heirloom and not just thinking 'Oh, I need a table.'"

Cooper said designing your own furniture opens up a world possibilities, where the piece can remain traditional or get more artistic.

"When you go to custom maker, you get the participation aspect to it. The value of the piece you are getting is that you are part of the process — creating it, sitting with the maker and talking about the design," Cooper said. "It's a narrative piece with a story."

The process of getting a piece from one of the masters is different depending on what master you are working with. Each master has his own way of working on the pieces. Cooper, for example, likes to make an appointment to visit at a client's home in order to get a feel for their style.

Buyers can make one-on-one appointments with the masters to create new pieces, or they can buy a master's existing piece that he might have in his own shop or in the Furniture Masters gallery in Concord.



Designed and carved by Jeffrey Cooper. Courtesy photo.

Furniture Master Tom McLaughlin has a particular style when he is working on his pieces. He likes to use a lot of curves and veneers. When he works with a client, he will often make a mock-up with less expensive wood first to show the client rather than just showing a sketch. Each of his pieces comes with a story and is a challenge to make, he said.

"It's so much more personal to get a piece from a furniture maker over furniture from a chain store," McLaughlin said. "What you end up with is a piece of artwork that means so much more, and its made to be intended to be handed down through generations."

McLaughlin also teaches classes out of his studio for those that are interested in learning how to make their own homemade furniture.

Learn more

Visit furnituremasters.org to see designs and furniture pieces that you could add to your home. Call 898-0242 to learn how you can design a piece for your home with one of the furniture masters one-on-one or choose an existing piece from one of the masters' design portfolios.

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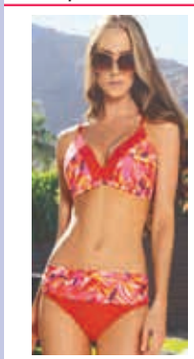


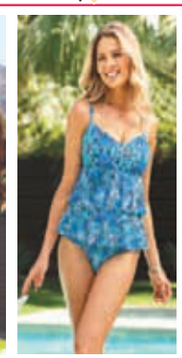
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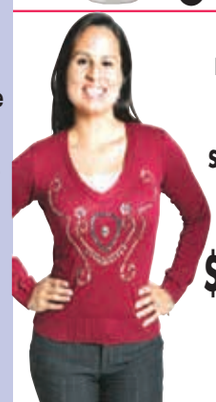
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THIS WEEK

EVENTS TO CHECK OUT FEBRUARY 13 - 19, 2014, AND BEYOND



Thursday, Feb. 13

Celebrate hot fun on cold days with the Portsmouth Fire & Ice Festival which starts today and runs through Monday, Feb. 17. The weekend of events throughout Portsmouth kicks off today with a screening of a production of *Romeo and Juliet* starring Orlando Bloom at the Music Hall Loft (at 7 p.m.) and an opening night party at The Port Inn from 5 to 7 p.m. Check out strawberybanke.org for a listing of all the events, which include an ice bar, dog sled rides and more.



Friday, Feb. 14

Forgot to buy flowers for Valentine's Day? Take advantage of a room full of flowers at the Orchid Love Affair annual show and sale from the New Hampshire Orchid Society which starts today (1 to 7 p.m.) at the at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua and runs through Sunday. Tickets cost $10 for adults ($15 for a three day pass). See nhorchids.org.



Friday, Feb. 14

Woo the collector of stamps, coins and/or currency in your life at the New Hampshire Coin & Currency Expo which starts today (10 a.m. to 7 p.m.) and runs through tomorrow (9 a.m. to 6 p.m.) at the Radisson in downtown Manchester. Tickets cost $3 per day, $5 for a two-day pass. See nhcoinexpo.com.



Sunday, Feb. 16

Break out your Doctor Who costumes, it's Queen City Kamikaze, which describes itself as a "annual nerd meet-up" that "brings anime, video game, comic book, cosplay, sci fi and fantasy fans together." The event runs today from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 1 Crusader Way in Manchester. Admission costs $10. The day will include video game tournaments, table top games, retro video games and discussions. See queencitykamikaze.com for details.



Sunday, Feb. 16

Offer the skeptical indoor kid another example of winter fun at the Pinnacle Mountain Ice Fishing Derby today from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with the Pinnacle Mountain Fish and Game at the Bill Duklee Memorial Ice Fishing Derby (Putnum Pond, Cemetery Road, Lyndeborough, 801-8015, jaysbran@hotmail.com). Kids can compete for prizes and use ice fishing supplies provided by the club.

Eat: Valentine's Dinner

Take your sweetheart out to dinner. Many area restaurants are offering special meals for Valentine's Day (Friday, Feb. 14) and, in some cases, throughout the weekend. Find a list of many of the special menus in last week's Hippo. Go to hippopress.com and click on the current issue of the Hippo; click on the calendar icon on the bottom left to go to the Feb. 6 issue. The story is on page 42.

Drink: Beer

After the wining and dining of Valentine's Day, time to relax with some beer. Upcoming tastings include brews from Sam Adams (on Wednesday, Feb. 19, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bert's Better Beers, 1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 413-5992, bertsbetterbeers.com), White Birch (on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Lazy Dog Beer Shoppe, 27 Buttrick Road, Londonderry, 434-2500, lazydogbeer.com) and Shipyard (on Thursday, Feb. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com).

Be Merry: With music

Catch the Boston acoustic rock duo The Gentleman Outfit at Stella Blu (70 E. Pearl St. in Nashua, stellablu-nh.com) on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 8 p.m. For more bands at area bars and restaurants, check out our Music This Week listing, which starts on page 70.



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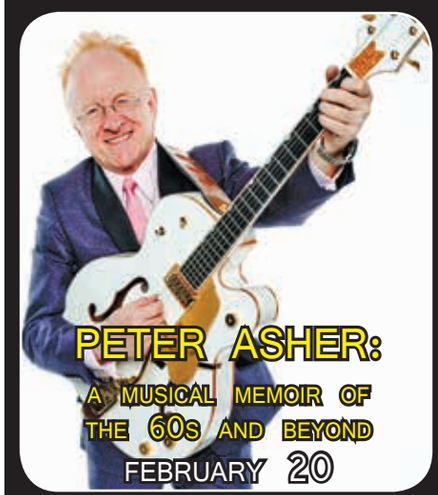
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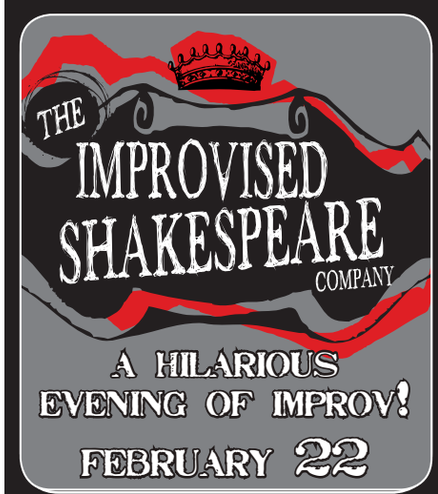
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ARTS

Contemplating contemporary art

NHIA faculty present Art Talks at LaBelle

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com



The first speaker in the series is Gary Samson. Photo courtesy of sharonarts.org.

Contemporary art: what's your reaction?

If it's frazzled, confused, befuddled or turned off, you're not alone, but you are in luck: The New Hampshire Institute of Art faculty is offering a series of presentations this spring meant to open the eyes and ears of locals who just don't get contemporary art.

"It's is not really easy to grasp or understand if you don't have the background. We're hoping to really open some doors and help people to understand and appreciate contemporary visual art," NHIA Vice President of Development Suzanne Lenz said in a phone interview.

The series, Art Talks, is led by three faculty members — Gary Samson with "A Life in Photography" on Sunday, Feb. 23; Joel Gill with "For Creativity's Sake: The Art of Breaking Rules" on Sunday, March 23; and Alison Williams with "How Art and Science Connect" on Sunday, April 13 — who will provide some insight while audiences sip free wine and eat free cheese at LaBelle Winery in Amherst. Each free 3:30 p.m. Art Talk is preceded by a reception at 3 p.m., and attendees can dine at the LaBelle Winery Bistro after each event with a 10-percent discount.

The series began last fall with lots of success, Lenz said, with close to 100 audience members at each event. These presentations laid the groundwork and the upcoming series will go more in-depth.

Williams, associate dean of the MFA program, thinks one reason contemporary art has become so difficult to relate to is that art evolved so quickly this past century.

"Over the last 100 years, art has changed more than in any other time," Williams said in a phone interview. "I don't know that anybody outside of the art world could have kept up with that change. Now we're at this place where artwork is being produced that you might not understand, what it is, why it's valuable, unless you get a fine art education."

But it's important to understand, Williams said, because art always will play an integral role in culture. (A native New Zealander, she compared understanding contemporary art to her needing to learn about American football when she moved to New England years back.)

In this part of the state, there's also more development in contemporary art.

"I think there's becoming a nice balance of business and art in Manchester. … As a result of the Art Talk presentation at Dyn, the company hired several of our students to create a mural there. … Our students just created art for Easter Seals, and all of the InTown banners around town are created by students," Lenz said.

Outside of NHIA, there have been more efforts at producing public art in Nashua, and more recently, in Manchester, with the call out for artists to create artwork from downtown utility boxes.

The first presentation, on Feb. 23, offered by photography department chairperson Gary Samson, will be about his artwork and how it reflects the culture of photography. The second, by foundations department chairperson Joel Gill on March 23, is about how in order for artists to become well-known, for them to break the rules, they first need to learn the foundations of art.

On April 13, Williams, who's shown art in schools all over New England, will talk about how art and science connect, through her own artwork and otherwise.

"My work has a kind of alchemy feel to it, like you're walking into a strange science experiment," said Williams, who most recently has been exploring the boundaries and connections between artmaking and gardening.

They're two seemingly opposite subjects, art and science, but it wasn't always this way.

"It used to be all connected," she said. "When you think about it, artists and scientists, they're really doing the same thing — they're trying to understand and interpret the world we live in. … But I think that over the past 20 years, there has been a huge point of connection, partially to do with technology," Williams said. "Science has made materialistically beautiful materials, and today, artists and scientists use some of the same tools."

Space is limited for all presentations. RSVP for both the reception and Art Talks by emailing rsvp@nhiaedu. Call 866-4918.

Attend the Sunday Art Talks

Where: LaBelle Winery, 345 Route 101, Amherst
Admission: Free
When: Gary Samson presents "A Life in Photography" on Sunday, Feb. 23, at 3:30 p.m.; Joel Gill presents "For Creativity's Sake: The Art of Breaking Rules" on Sunday, March 23, at 3:30 p.m.; and Alison Williams presents "How Art and Science Connect" on Sunday, April 13, at 3:30 p.m.
Contact: RSVP by emailing rsvp@nhia.edu. Call 886-241-4918, visit nhia.edu.

24 Art

Includes listings for gallery events, ongoing exhibits and classes. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

27 Theater

Includes listings, shows, auditions, workshops and more. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

28 Classical

Includes symphony and orchestral performances. To get listed, e-mail arts@hippopress.com.

ART

• **CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ADULT MAKERS NIGHTS** monthly series, new projects, $10 per night plus materials fee per adult per workshop, at Children's Museum of NH, 6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org. "Soldering, Switches and Experimenting with LED Lights" on Thurs., Feb. 13, 7-8:30 p.m.; "T-Shirt Yarn and Tie Dying" on Thurs., March 13, 7-8:30 p.m.; "Abstract Painting of the Land and Sea" on Thurs., April 10, 7-8:30 p.m.; "Tech Play" on Thurs., May 8, 7-8:30 p.m. Register by calling.

• **DAVID P. CURRY, BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART CURATOR** speaks at Discover Portsmouth Center, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth, on Sat., Feb. 15, at 11 a.m., about Celia Thaxter and Childe Hassam. Admission $15 for gallery talk. Reservations required. Call 436-8433.

• **PECHAKUCHA NIGHT #18: HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW** at the Portsmouth Gas Light Co. (64 Market St., Portsmouth) on Sun., Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Email cladd@3Sarts.org if intereseted in presenting, visit 3sarts.org, facebook.com/3SArtspace.

• **EMPTY BOWLS** on Wed., Feb. 19, 6-8 p.m., at Nashua High School South, 10 Chuck Druding Drive, Nashua. General admission $15. Email maguires@nashua.edu. Ninety-two percent every dollar donated to Nashua Soup Kitchen and Shelter. Visit nsks.org.

• **NAAA 99 RESTAURANT FUNDRAISER** on Wed., Feb. 19, 5-10 p.m., 10 Saint Laurent St., Nashua. Visit nashuaareaartistsassoc.org; 15 percent of proceeds to to Nashua Area Artist's Association.

• **COLBY-SAWYER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** celebration of diverse student body, half-hour fashion show, table displays, traditional cuisine, games, native art, artifacts, talent show, on Fri., Feb. 21, 5-8 p.m., at Wheeler Hall, War Student Center, Colby-Sawyer College, 541 Main St., New London. Free admission to all.

• **"TWO LIGHTS, ONE WALL"** three-year project, one-night show with art by Dastardly Dave Dawson at SOPHA.com, 782-8403, 15 Merrill St., Manchester, on Fri., Feb. 28, 6:30-10 p.m. Contains artistic nudity.

Exhibit openings

• **"BLACK AND WHITE WITH A SPLASH OF RED"** on view at the Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Reception and "People's Choice" event on Sat., Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m.

• **MICHAEL MOORE** black and white images, color photographs, on view at Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St., Hancock, 525-4411, hancocktownlibrary.blogspot.com, Feb. 1 through Feb. 15.

• **AARON T. BROWN** exhibits work at Hancock Town Library, 25 Main St., Hancock, 525-4411, hancocktownlibrary.blogspot.com, Feb. 15 through March 27. Prints. Reception on Fri., Feb. 28, 6-8 p.m., public welcome.

• **STUDIO 550 VALENTINE'S DAY DATE NIGHTS** on Fri., Feb. 14, at 6 and 7:30 p.m., and Sat., Feb. 15, at 6 and 7:30 p.m. Learn to throw on potter's wheel, finish/fire creations. Participants may bring own wine/chocolates. Materials and instructions included, $60 per couple. Limited space, visit 550arts.com, call 232-5597.

• **"BLACK, WHITE AND A SPLASH OF RED"** at Seacoast Artist Association Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter, 778-8856, on view through Feb. Reception on Sat., Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m.

• **"SONGS INTO THE AIR"** gallery exhibition with work

LOCAL — COLOR —

NH art world news



"Nashua Winter" by Monique Sakellarios, which will be on view at the Whistler House Museum. This piece also won "Best in Show" at the 2013 Greeley Park Art Show.

• **Sakellarios solo show:** Monique Sakellarios, who won "Best in Show" at the 2013 Greeley Park Art Show, displays her work in a solo exhibition at the Whistler House Museum of Art, 243 Worthen St., Lowell, Mass. (whistlerhouse.org). She's known for her impressionist styled landscapes and garden scenes, but visitors will also see some abstract work by the artist. There art is on view Feb. 19 through March 29, with a reception on Saturday, Feb. 22, from 2 to 4 p.m.

• **Lucy's last show:** The show on view at Lucy's Art Emporium (303 Central Ave., Dover, lucysartemporium.com) now through the end of February will be the last at the Dover gallery, displaying much of the artwork by artists who have shown here through the past four years. It contains work in a variety of media by Lucy's regulars, including Gretchen Hatfield, who's created a series of acrylic paintings on birchbark; Dover printmaker Laura Utley, who will show her foam plate monoprints; and Caryn Lynn Duncan, Beth Newkirk, Larry Reynolds, Roseann Meserve, Kathi Smith, Laura Tuininga, Susan Schwake, Adams Ellard and her husband, painter Nick Ellard.

Owner Daisy Adams will be transitioning her business to an online one for the next few years as she takes care of her infant daughter, though according to a press release, Lucy's will have a presence at local craft fairs.

• **Got a story to tell?** The New Hampshire Film and Television Office is accepting submissions for the 2014 New Hampshire High School Short Film Festival. All submissions must be postmarked on or before March 31, or arrive at the Film and Television office at 19 Pillsbury St., Concord, by 4 p.m. on that date, according to a press release.

The festival is open to all students currently enrolled in grades 9 through 12 at New Hampshire public or private high schools. Homeschooled students between the ages of 14 and 18 are also eligible. There's no entry fee, and films cannot be longer than seven minutes, including titles and credits. A panel of judges from the New Hampshire film industry will review all submissions, with select films to show at the festival itself at Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St., Concord, on May 24. Winning films will also be screened on New Hampshire Day and Night at the New Hampshire Film Festival next October. Visit nhstudentfilm.com for more information.

— *Kelly Sennott*

by David Lang at Museum of Art, UNH, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Lang talks about his use of found materials in his studio practice and the engineering involved in his sculptures at gallery talk on Wed., Feb. 19, at noon. Free. Call 862-3712, email museum.of.art@unh.edu, visit unh.edu/moa.

• **BEN SMITH** featured artist for February/March at Seacoast Artist Association at SAA Gallery, 225 Water St., Exeter. Reception on Sun., Feb. 23, 2-4 p.m.

• **"MEMORIES"** by Monique Sakellarios at Whistler House Museum, 243 Worthen St., Lowell, 978-452-7641, Feb. 19 through March 29. Reception on Sat., Feb. 22, 2-4 p.m. Free, open to public. Images from trip to Europe, abstract, other art.

In the galleries

• **"LOVE, LUST & DESIRE"** on view at McGowan Fine Art, 10 Hills Ave., Concord, Jan. 28 through Feb. 14. Call 225-2515, visit mcgowanfineart.com.

• **"JOHN SHEARER: RETROSPECTIVE OF A PHOTOGRAPHER"** on view at the Hargate Gallery, St. Paul's School, 325 Pleasant St., Concord, 229-4644, through Feb. 15. Gallery hours Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **CHAPEL ART CENTER: STUDENTS SELECT** exhibition of works from college's permanent collection curated by St. Anselm students, on view through Feb. 22. Visit anselm.edu/chapelart, call 641-7242. Free viewing.

• **"FROM THE LAND AND THE SEA: PAPER AND 3D MIXED MEDIA"** on view through Feb. 23 at the Loading Dock Gallery, 122 Western Ave., Lowell, westernavearts@gmail.com. Art by Barbara Fletcher.

• **SHAUNE MCCARTHY** shows "5 Shade Holders and Other Works of Art" at Main Street Art, 75 Main St., Newfields. Artist discussion on Sat., Feb. 15, 1-2 p.m. at the gallery; she'll discuss artwork and share journey from ceramic sculpture to contemporary abstractions and found art. Art on view through Feb. 28.

• **"FROM THE WHITE MOUNTAINS AND BEYOND: PAINTINGS BY BARBARA BUSENBARK"** on display at the Conservation Center conference room (54 Portsmouth St., Concord, 224-9945) through Feb. Open Mon. through Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m., call before viewing. Visit colornotesartgallery.com.

• **"CANYONS AND MYTHS"** featuring local artists Edibeth Farrington and Megan Bogonovich, on view through March 31 at artstream's Dover gallery, 10 Second St., Dover. Monotypes and sculptures. Visit artstreamstudios.com/upcoming, call 516-8500.

• **"I HAD TO WALK UPHILL TO SCHOOL, BOTH WAYS"** exhibition by Mike Lewis and Tom Konieczko, drawings and

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Radisson Hotel, Nashua, NH
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Sat. Feb. 15 ~ 9 am to 5 pm
Sun. Feb. 16 ~ 9 am to 4 pm
Valentine's Day Weekend
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King Kong, one room over

Concord players produce Derry writer's film parody

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com



The Community Players of Concord perform *Kong's Night Out* this weekend. Von Redlich photo.

When filmmaker Merian C. Cooper created *King Kong* in 1933, it was a tremendous achievement.

"Not only technically, but also in the story. It's a great movie," Derry writer Jack Neary said in a phone interview. The film was made just six years after the first "talkie" feature film, *The Jazz Singer*, but this one contained special effects with stop-motion models and an evocative love story whose climax scene — Kong snatching actress Ann Darrow and carrying her to the top of the Empire State Building — is one of the most well-known in film history.

But Neary always thought it'd be funny to learn what was going on in the hotel room next to the one blonde bombshell Ann Darrow was in before the big ape plucked her out and whisked her away. What did *they* think of the giant gorilla?

Neary came up with *Kong's Night Out*, a slapstick, screwball comedy that premiered in Boston in 2006 and soon after showed in Detroit with *Laverne and Shirley* actors Cindy Williams and Eddy Mekka playing principal roles.

This weekend, the show premieres in New Hampshire. The Community Players of Concord will be the first community theater group to tackle the play, which follows the Players' "season of laughter" 2013-2014 theme.

See *Kong's Night Out*

Where: Concord Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord
When: Friday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.; Saturday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sunday, Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.
Admission: $18
Contact: communityplayersofconcord.org, 344-4747, nhdm40@comcast.net

Shortly before rehearsals began, Neary had an opportunity to talk with the director and hear the initial table reading.

"It was terrific. I hadn't heard the play in a while, and I was very impressed with the caliber of talent in the room that night. Five or six of the actors hadn't even read the play up until that point," Neary said. "It was very encouraging to see how much they understood the style of comedy."

That style is equipped with fast dialogue, slapstick humor and over-the-top characters that aren't overly complicated but are overly dramatic, actress Deirdre Bridge said in a phone interview. (Among the characters are a couple of big-shot movie producers, a pompous, aging actress and a foul-smoking mother.) Bridge plays Bertrille Siegel, a glamorous, insincere gold-digging wife.

Bridge took on the role specifically because of the time period. She loves the glamorous sets designed by Jim Webber and the glamorous costumes designed by Gay Bean, but she also likes that the jokes are those people will still think are funny.

"It's very current. It's got some raunchy humor in it. … And it isn't something that's been done 1,000 times," Bridge said.

It's one plus side to writing old-fashioned shows in the present day.

"The fact that it was written recently makes it impossible to not have some awareness of what a contemporary audience would accept," Neary said. "It has really fast dialogue, which was part of the era — people didn't waste time getting the story across."

The play, which director Michael Coppola says is reminiscent of *Noises Off* and *Arsenic and Old Lace*, begins with producer Myron Siegel's anger at learning people are returning tickets for his *Foxy Felicia* show in favor of a top-secret attraction that will be unveiled the same night by Siegel's producing nemesis Carl Denham. He and a few others hatch a plan to steal the rumored creature and add him to *Foxy Felicia*. Meanwhile, Ann Darrow's fiance desperately tries to keep her out of Kong's clutches.

If the rumors are true, you can expect an appearance by the big ape, as well.

The characters and plot weren't written to be deep, but more to be funny, Neary said, and so getting the comedy right was so important to Coppola. He brought in a theater newbie, Jim Baker of Derry, who has film and stand-up comedy experience. The transition from film to stage and from stand-up to script has been a bit strange, Baker said, but he's not completely out of his element.

"There are moments where, if the lines aren't delivered at the right time, it can throw off something that's supposed to be funny," Baker said. "It's not necessarily important just to say the line at the right time, but more so, it needs to be delivered in a way so that the audience knows it's a joke."

Coppola specifically cast actors who could deliver comedic lines and who could do it well.

"It was very important that the actors were able to do physical comedy. There's a lot of running around, jumping. You could have the best dramatic actors, but if they don't have the right timing in comedy, it just isn't there," Coppola said.

paintings on paper, index cards, boards, that display artists' truths and styles, at The Studio, 50 Canal St., Laconia, through February. Call 455-8008, visit thestudionh.com.

• **NASHUA AREA ARTISTS' ASSOCIATION EXHIBITION** at the Nashua Public Library, 2 Court St., Nashua, through February. Oils, acrylics, pastels, watercolors, photographs, digital art. Visit nashualibrary.org/directions.htm.

• **"TWO WOMEN IN CLOTH AND PAINT"** exhibit at Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, on view through February. Work by Audrey Augun and Paula Furlong.

• **NH FURNITURE MASTERS WINTER SHOW** on view at the NHFMA gallery, 49 S. Main St., Concord, now through March 10. Visit furnituremasters.org.

• **"LIGHT FORMS"** art by Professor Harry Umen at Great Bay Community College Gateway Gallery, on view through March 14. Art fuses physical and digital materials. Visit greatbay.edu, call 427-7713, email abrennan@ccsnh.edu.

• **"LIGHT FORMS"** work by NH digital artist Harry Umen on view at the Gateway Gallery at Great Bay Community College, 427-7713, greatbay.edu, abrennan@ccsnh.edu, now through March 14.

• **"TURN OF THE CENTURY PRINTS AND PAINTINGS"** by Loretta CR Hubley on view at the second floor gallery at UNH Manchester, 400 Commercial St., Manchester, through March 14. Call 641-4101.

Open call

• **CALLING NEW ARTISTS** to exhibit at Spoon Revolution Vegan Bistro, 55 S. Main St., Concord, 738-4327, spoonrev.com, spoonrevnh@gmail.com. Contact for details.

• **CALL FOR ART** for InTown Manchester/City of Manchester's Art Commission/Studio 550 Art Center "Think Outside the Box" project. NH artists invited to submit designs to paint traffic signal boxes downtown. Three to five designs to be chosen, artists receive $300 stipend to cover materials and time. Submissions due March 7 at 9 p.m. Submissions sent via email, post mail dropped off in person at Studio 550, 550 Elm St., Manchester, 550arts.com, 232-5597, info@550arts.com. Full application available at website under "Opportunities" page. Application fee $25 required.

Classes/workshops/demonstrations

• **MASTERING WATERCOLOR** with Bob Eshoo on Sat., Feb. 15, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, $150, currier.org, 669-6144, ext. 108.

• **CERAMICS: IDEAS & PROCESSES** with Angela Cunningham on Sat., Feb. 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., at Currier Museum of Art, 150 Ash St., Manchester, $150, currier.org, 669-6144, ext. 108.

• **LEAGUE OF NH CRAFTSMEN CLASSES** at the Nashua retail gallery, 98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233. Ink tiles, earrings, paintings, etc. Beadweaving: Zigzag Brick Stitch Bracelet on Sat., Feb. 15, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m., $45, materials $20; Alcohol Ink on Yupo on Sat., Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., $30, $15 materials fee.
bookbinding, collage and scrapbooking. Children's birthday parties are available.

• **YOU'RE FIRED** (Bedford, 641-FIRE; Concord, 226-FIRE; Salem, 894-KILN; youreFirednh.com) has regular studio fees of $6 for children (younger than 12), $8 for adults, schedule of times online. Monday is Mini-Monday where children's studio fees are $3 (half off). Friday Night is Teen Night with teen (13 to 19) studio fees $4 (half off).

Other

CURTAIN CALL

Notes from the theater scene



The Concord Chorale. Courtesy photo.

• **Another way to send love:** The Concord Chorale is offering to serenade your loved one with singing valentines this weekend at the location of your choice on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 5 to 9 p.m., and Friday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. With eight songs to choose from, the serenade also comes with a red rose and two tickets to the next Concord Chorale concert. All proceeds benefit the chorale's tradition of bringing music to the greater Concord area, according to the release. Call 731-2244 or visit concordchorale.org. The Granite Statesmen will also be serenading in Nashua on Friday at residents' work places, homes, schools or restaurants. You can buy a singing Valentine for $39, which includes a song performed by the barbershop quartet, a red rose, a keepsake photo and personalized Valentine's Day card. Call 866-SING, email valentines@granitestatesmen.org or visit granitestatesmen.org.

• ***Spank!* the sequel:** The show that took audiences by raunchy, hysterical storm last year has returned with a sequel. *Spank! Harder: The Sequel* shows at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. The show takes off where the original left off, which, according to a press release, parodies the *Fifty Shades* series and women's pop culture. Tickets are $45 for all seats. Visit ccanh.com, call 225-1111 or visit spankshow.com.

• **New building for Portsmouth Music & Arts Center:** When the Portsmouth Music and Art Center opened in 2003, it was very quickly clear that the small space on Albany Street was limited; it was never meant to see 500 students a week or function as a community music and visual arts school, said board president Maria Sillari in a press release. So, in 2012, when the founders found the property at 973 Islington St., they embarked on a $1.9 million campaign to purchase and renovate the building. The organization continues to fund raise but has successfully funded the core aspects of the renovation. With help from Provident Bank and Optima Bank & Trust, they purchased the building in December. PMAC celebrates with a grand opening on Saturday, March 15, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with live music, a student recital, visual art-making, an "instrument petting zoo," and more. Visit pmaconline.org or call 431-4279. — *Kelly Sennott*

• **WELLNESS RECOVERY ACTION PLAN (WRAP) PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP** on Saturdays, 10-11:30 a.m., Feb. 8 through April 12, hosted at C.R.E.A.T.E.!, 141 Union St., Manchester, $25 for materials. Call 315-6700, visit wrapnikkisdream.eventbrite.com to schedule intake appointment.

Theater

• ***A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM*** inaugural "Shakespeare in the Snow" performance by Cara Chameleon Club on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 6:30 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets $20. Call 207-358-9887, visit theatreunmasked.com, email info@theatreunmasked.com.

• ***SPANK! HARDER: THE SEQUEL*** at the Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord, on Sun., Feb. 16, at 7:30 p.m. Tickets $45 all seats. Call 225-1111, visit ccanh.com.

• ***SOMETHING WONDERFUL I MISSED: THE MUSICALS OF 1964*** on Sun., Feb. 16, at 4 p.m., at the Derry Opera House, 29 W. Broadway, Derry. Featuring lesser-known selections from the 1964 musical theater season and their interesting history of origin. Visit notyourmomsmusicaltheater.com, email notyourmoms@gmail.com. Following shows include *The Musicals of 1974* on Sun., May 25, at 4 p.m.; *The Musicals of 1984* on Sun., July 13, at 4 p.m.; *The Musicals of 1994* on Sun., Sept. 28, at 4 p.m.; and *The Musicals of 2004* on Sun., Nov. 2. Admission pay-what-you-can.

• ***SEX PLEASE WE'RE SIXTY*** at Chateau Event Center, 201 Hanover St., Manchester, on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m. (curtain at 8:45 p.m.); Sat., Feb. 15, 7:30 p.m. (curtain at 8:45 p.m.); and Sun., Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m. (curtain at 1 p.m.) Dinner included, buffet style. Call 669-5511, email boxoffice@stageoneproductions.net for ticket prices. Presented by Stage One Productions.

• **PUREMOVEMENT** American dance by Rennie Harris, hip-hop artist from Philadelphia, on Fri., Feb. 21, at 7:30 p.m., anselm.edu/dana/sea_perf_14.aspx, at Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Tickets $36.75. Call 641-7700, email dana@anselm.edu.

• ***ALMOST MAINE*** presented by Peacock Players at Janice B. Streeter Theater, 14 Court St., Nashua, 886-7000, peacockplayers.org, on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 2 and 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 21, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 22, at 2 and 7 p.m.; & Sun., Feb. 23, at 2 p.m. Tickets $10-$17.

• ***I LOVE YOU BECAUSE*** by Manchester Community Theatre Players on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m., at JFNH Theatre, 698 Beech St., Manchester. Tickets $20. Visit mctp.info, call 800-838-3006.

• ***WHERE THERE'S A WILL*** comedy by George Hosker-Bouley Feb. 14 through March 2, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., at West End Theater, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth. Admission $18. Reservations recommended, call 978-683-7745.

• ***RENT: SCHOOL EDITION*** by Derryfield School Players at Derryfield School, 2108 River Road, Manchester, on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets $12 per person. Visit etix.com. Remaining tickets sold at auditorium starting an



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IN HIS DEFENSE

The Capitol Center for the Arts (44 S. Main St., Concord, ccanh.com, 225-1111) shows *Defending the Caveman* on Friday, Feb. 14, at 8 p.m. It's a show about the ways men and women relate (or don't) to each other. In attempts to not take sides, the show provides "hysterical observations" of contemporary feminism, masculine sensitivity and the erogenous zones, as described on the event website. Tickets are $35 to $45. Photo courtesy of defendingthecaveman.com, Jenni Girtman.

hour before each show. Held in conjunction with reception for photographer Robert Janules and Painter Richard Widhu, whose works, "A Shared Vision," on display at Lyceum Gallery on Friday 5:30-7 p.m.

• ***DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN*** Valentine's Day show on Fri., Feb. 14, at 8 p.m., at Capitol Center for the Arts, 44 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets $35-$45, visit ccanh.com, call 225-1111. About the ways men and women relate to one another.

• ***DEATH OF A SALESMAN*** by Arthur Miller at the Players' Ring, 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, Feb. 14-March 2, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sunday, Feb. 16 and 23 at 7 p.m., Sunday March 2 at 2 p.m. Tickets $12. Visit playersring.org, call 436-8123.

• ***VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER THEATER: IMPERSONATORS OF ROMANCE*** show on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.; and Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Performances held at Bow Lake Grange, Province Road, Strafford. Tickets $25, includes dinner. Payment in advance, cash/check only. Reservations required. Call 664-2487. Performance by Lakeside Players.

• ***KONG'S NIGHT OUT*** presented by Community Players of Concord at the Concord Auditorium, 2 Prince St., Concord, on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m.; & Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m. Tickets $14-$16.

• ***DIVAS THROUGH THE DECADES*** Feb. 14 through March 1 at the Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester. Tickets $15-$45. Call 668-5588, visit palacetheatre.org.

• **RHYTHM OF THE DANCE** performance by the National Dance Theatre of Ireland on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m., at Dana Center for the Humanities, 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester. Tickets $33.75. Call 641-7700, email dana@anselm.edu.

• ***WHERE THERE'S A WILL…*** comedy by George Hosker-Bouley at West End Studio Theater, 959 Islington St., Portsmouth, Feb. 14 through March 2, with performances Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. Tickets $18 for adults, $18 students and seniors. Call 978-683-7745. Play about what happens when a matriarch nobody likes dies and her kids are left scrambling after her money.

• ***EQUALLY DIVIDED*** shows at the Merrimack Repertory Theatre, 132 Warren St., Lowell, Mass., 978-654-7550, mrt.org, Feb. 13 through March 9. Tickets start at $20.

• ***DORKS IN DUNGEONS LIVE! ONSTAGE*** dice-rolling fantasy improv comedy show on Sun., Feb. 23, at 7 p.m., at Seacoast Repertory Theatre, 125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4793, seacoastrep.org, dorksindungeons.com. Joined by guest improvisor Timothy Jacobs. Tickets pay-what-you-can.

Classical

• **SONGS OF LOVE AND FLIRTATION** concert presented by ArtsAthenaeum, performed by soprano Angelynne Hinson, soprano; Melinda McMahon, mezzo soprano; Dorothy Braker, cello; and Barbara Flocco, piano, on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 4 p.m., in Portsmouth Athenaeum Reading Room, 9 Market Square, Portsmouth. Visit direnssongduo.com, call 431-2538, ext. 2. Tickets are free, but reservations requested because space limited.

• **ROB HASKINS AND FRIENDS** perform as part of the UNH Department of Music Faculty Concert Series on Sat., Feb. 15, at 8 p.m., at Bratton Recital Hall, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free, open to public.

• **SOLSTICE SACKBUTS** perform at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Sun., Feb. 16, at 4 p.m. Call 673-2288, email rvear@amherstlibrary.org, visit amherst.lib.nh.us.

• **SYMPHONY NH: PICTURE THIS!** family concert on Sun., Feb. 16, at 3 p.m., at Keefe Center for the Arts, 117 Elm St., Nashua. Music by the greats and from films like *Star Wars*, *Indiana Jones* and *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Tickets $15. Call 595-9156.

• **PISTONS AND PIPES** featuring Richard Watson on trumpet, Douglas Major on organ, on Sun., Feb. 16, at 3 p.m., at First Church of Nashua, 1 Concord St., Nashua. Free admission. Visit first-music.org, call 882-4861.

• **PIPER RUNNION-BAREFORD TOUR DE FRANCE** harp concert accompanied by flutist Bonnie Cochran, includes Debussy's masterwork, L'après-midi d'un faune, and works by Tulou, Renie and Ibert, on Wed., Feb. 19, 12:10-12:50 p.m., at Grace Episcopal Church, 106 Lowell St., Manchester. Free.

• **ELIZABETH GUNLOGSON** performs with Christopher Kies, Peggy Vagts, Stephanie Jenkins through UNH Dept. Music Faculty Concert Series on Sun., Feb. 23, at 3 p.m., in Bratton Recital Hall, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free. Call 862-2404, visit unh.edu/music.

• **UNH TRADITIONAL JAZZ SERIES** presents Bill Charlap, Renee Rosnes, on Mon., Feb. 24, at 8 p.m., at UNH, Johnson Theater, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Tickets $8. Call 862-2404, visit unharts.com.

• **UNH WIND SYMPHONY** performs on Tues., Feb. 25, at 8 p.m., at Johnson Theater, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free event. Call 862-2404, visit unharts.com.

• **UNH JAZZ BANDS** perform on Wed., Feb. 26, at 8 p.m., at Johnson Theater, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free event. Call 862-2404, visit unharts.com. Music by classic and contemporary writers.

• **UNH SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA** under direction David Upham perform on Thurs., Feb. 27, at 8 p.m., at Johnson Theater, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free event. Call 862-2404, visit unharts.com.

• **UNH CONCERT CHOIR** under direction William Kempster perform on Fri., Feb. 28, at 8 p.m., at Johnson Theater, Paul Creative Arts Center, 30 Academic Way, Durham. Free event. Call 862-2404, visit unharts.com.

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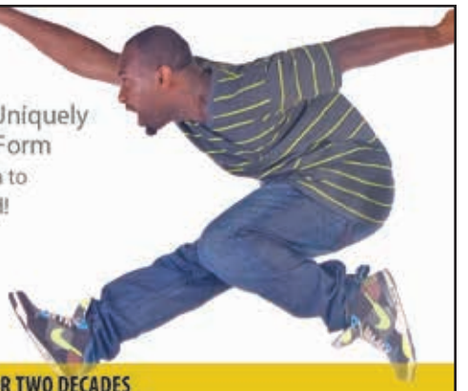
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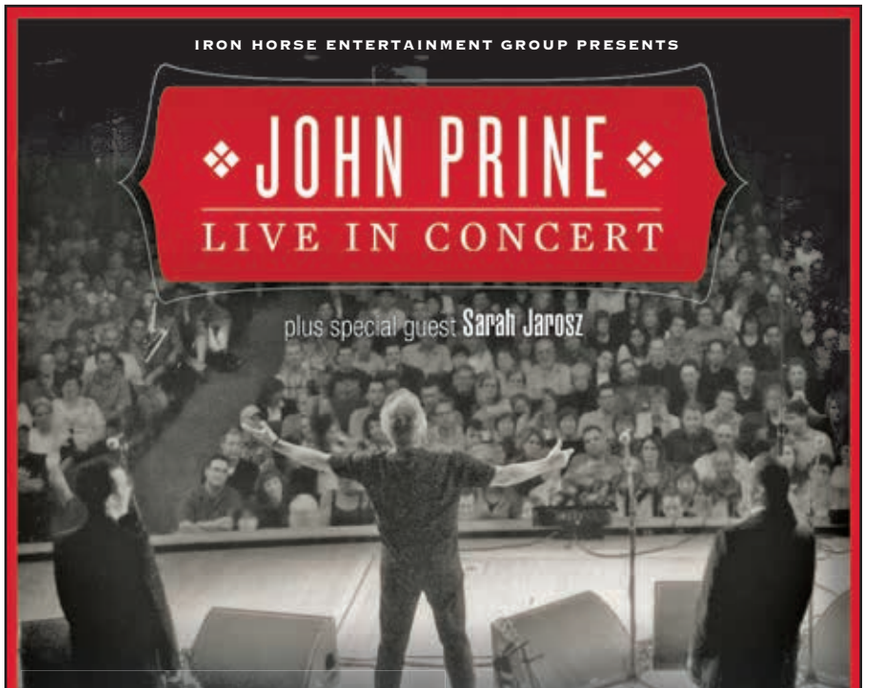
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Get Listed

From yoga to pilates, cooking to languages to activities for the kids, Hippo's weekly listing offers a rundown of all area events and classes. Get your program listed by sending information to listings@hippopress.com at least three weeks before the event.

INSIDE/OUTSIDE

Vacation week is coming

Where to send the kids for February break

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

It's time for February vacation. Check out the list of camps below for ideas of where to send your kids for a fun-filled break.

Activity Day Camps

Concord YMCA

15 North State St., Concord, 228-9622, concordymca.org

What: Campers will enjoy sports activities, rock wall climbing, swimming, games and arts and crafts. There are even some field trips.

Who: Kids in kindergarten to grade 6

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Cost: $188 for the week or $50 per day; prices are cheaper for members

Concord Parks & Rec

14 Canterbury Road, Concord, 225-8690, concordnh.gov/recreation

What: Kids can spend their February vacation going on day trips, including to the Boston Museum of Science, Franklin Park Zoo, Space Center and ice skating.

Who: Kids in grades 3 through 6

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: $50 for non residents and $40 for residents daily

Merrimack YMCA

6 Henry Clay Dr., Merrimack, 881-7778, nmymca.org

What: Camps include swim time, fun science experiments, cooperative team-building games, sports, outdoor play and more. There are also before and after camp care hours for an extra cost.

Who: Kids ages 6 through 12

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28

Cost: $273 for the week or $66 for the day. Prices are cheaper if you are a member.

Nashua YMCA

24 Stadium Dr., Nashua, 882-2011, nmymca.org

What: Camps include swim time, fun science experiments, cooperative team building games, sports, outdoor play and more. There is also before and after camp care hours for an extra price.

Who: Kids ages 6 through 12

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28

Cost: $273 for the week or $66 for the day. Prices are cheaper if you are a member.

Arts and Theater Camps

Beck's Art Express

491 Amherst St., Nashua, 566-1393, admin@artsexpressnh.com, artsexpressnh.com

What: At Fabulous Fashionista, campers will learn all about the world of fashion and design. Campers will create fashion sketches on paper and create fun accessories and fashion items. **Who:** Kids ages 7 to 12 years old

When: Feb. 24 to Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to noon.

Cost: $100

Children's Museum Art Camp

6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org

What: Kids will learn all about famous artists and create masterpieces of their own to bring home in a portfolio. Campers will learn about Picasso, Monet and Van Gogh.

Who: Kids ages 5 through 9

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 26, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Cost: $120

Currier Museum of Art

180 Pearl St., Manchester, 669-6144 x122, artcenter@currier.org, currier.org

What: Signs of Our Times! invites campers to create paintings, prints, collages and sculptures that explore the art of Robert Indiana.

Who: Kids ages 5 to 14 years

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to noon or 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: $270 or $160

MoCo Arts

76 Railroad St., Keene, 357-2100, moco.org

What: Campers in the February vacation camp will learn to dance, act, sing, and create fun art projects built around a camp theme. This year's theme is "Atlantis — Under the Sea."

Who: Kids from pre-kindergarten through sixth grade

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Cost: Call for pricing



Kids at last year's February vacation camp at Beck's Art Express in Nashua. Courtesy photo.

Palace Theatre

80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org

What: Campers will be learning about all aspects of theater, including singing, dancing, acting, costumes, set painting, games and more. A production is set for at the end of each camp.

Who: Kids in grades 2 through 8

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: $225

Science Camp

Seacoast Science Center

570 Ocean Boulevard, Rye, 436-8043, seacoastsciencecenter.org

What: In Treks 4 Tots camp and the Seaside Safari camps, campers will learn about nature and how living in the world affects them. From exhibits to tide pools and some scavenger hunts, children will learn about different animals, such as polar bears, sharks and penguins.

Who: Kids ages 3½ to 5 and grades 1 through 5

When: Feb. 17 through Feb. 21 and Feb. 24 through Feb. 28

Cost: $55 or $35 per day

Sports Camps

Play Ball

16 Industrial Way, Salem, 898-0332, goplayball.com

What: Coed kids can attend any of the baseball pitching, softball pitching, baseball hitting, softball hitting, catching, rookie skills, baseball skills or softball skills camps or clinics. These camps after offered weekly for a day session in February.

Who: Kids ages 5 to 18 years depending on the camp

When: Visit online for February dates. Times run generally from 6 to 8 p.m

Cost: $115

Splash Week at Nashua YMCA

24 Stadium Dr., Nashua, 882-2011nmymca.org

What: A mini series of swimming lessons during school break for kids.

Who: Kids ages 3 to 5 and 6 to 12

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28 from 9 to 9:30 a.m. for ages 3 to 5 and 9:30 to 10 a.m. for ages 6 to 12

Cost: $40 or $20 if you are a member

SportsZone

7 A St., Derry, 537-9663, nhsportszone.com

What: Campers will get to play basketball, soccer, football, baseball, softball, pickleball, wiffle ball, kickball, dodgeball and handball. They also have access to the batting cages, the bouncy house, swimming pool and a slip n' slide.

Who: Kids ages 6 to 13

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. or half day options

Cost: $174 for full day, full week, $95 for half day, full week, or $35 daily

The Works

23 Works Way, Somersworth, 742-2163, theworkshealthclub.com

What: The Works Vacation Camp at the Wentworth Douglass Hospital Family Health and Fitness Center has day camps on all school holidays and throughout the winter. They invite kids to come and try basketball, volleyball, tumbling, floor hockey, dodgeball, swimming and other games. Bring a towel, a bathing suit, sneakers and some lunch and make sure to dress for outdoor fun, weather permitting.

Who: Kids in kindergarten through grade 8

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Cost: Weekly price of $195

Tri-Star Gymnastics and Dance

66 Third St., Dover, 749-1234, tristargymnh.com

What: Campers will learn all about gymnastics and how to use the balance beam or use the bars.

Who: Kids ages 5 through 13

When: Feb. 24 through Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. with half-day options available

Cost: $135 for full day, full week, or $85 for half day, full week. Daily rates also.

Nature Camps

NH Audubon

Massabesic or McLane Center, 224-9909, nhaudubon.org

What: February Fun Vacation Camp will allow kids to learn about nature during the winter months. There will be various outdoor excursions, either by foot or by snowshoes. Kids will learn through crafts, stories, live animals, songs and games. Kids will learn about birds, mammals, insects and reptiles.

Who: Kids ages 6 to 12 years

When: Feb. 25 through Feb. 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Cost: $52 per day

Continuing Education

Open house

• **INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS** Mill Falls Charter School (100 William Loeb Drive, Manchester, 232-5176, millfalls.org) will hold informational sessions on March 1, at 10 a.m.

Computers & tech

• **BASICS OF E-READERS** will be taught at the Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Pelham, 635-7581, pelhampubliclibrary.com) on Fri., Feb. 14, at 10 a.m. Must have a valid library card to sign up. Register early.

• **DEVICE WORKSHOP** on Thurs., Feb. 20, from 6 to 8 p.m. with U.S. Cellular (946 S. Willow St., Manchester, 622-1033, uscellular.com). The workshop is free and fill feature how to use a smartphone or a tablet. Call to rsvp.

• **DEVICE WORKSHOP** at U.S. Cellular (240 Loudon Road, Concord, traci.sullivan@uscellular.com, uscellular.com) on Fri., Feb. 22, from 5 to 7 p.m. They will teach how to use smartphones and tablets.

• **DEVICE WORKSHOP** at U.S. Cellular (75 Laconia Road, Tilton, traci.sullivan@uscellular.com, uscellular.com) on Thurs., Feb. 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. People will learn how to use smartphones and tablets at this free event.

• **BASICS OF MICROSOFT WORD** at the Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Pelham, 635-7581, pelhampubliclibrary.com) will teach users how to use the program on Fri., Feb. 28, at 10 a.m. Must have a valid library card. Register early.

• **COMPUTER WORKSHOPS** The Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4611, nashualibrary.org) is now registering for free one-day workshops on computer basics, Internet, Word 2010, advanced Word 2010, Powerpoint 2010, Excel 2010, advanced Excel 2010, Access 2010, genealogy and online job searching. Register at nashualibrary.org/computerclasses.htm.

• **E-READER DROP-IN SESSIONS** at the Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library (7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2581) on the first Wednesday of the month. Schedule a one-on-one session to learn about downloading library books.

• **COMPUTER TRAINING** at Wilton Public and Gregg Free Library (7 Forest Road, Wilton, 654-2681). Training sessions are offered at no cost. Call or email billb@wiltonlibrarynh.org.

• **COMPUTER TUTOR** at Rye Public Library (581 Washington Road, Rye, 964-8401) Mondays, 9:30 to 11 a.m. Register for 20-minute sessions for your own specific computer needs.

• **COMPUTER TUTORIALS** at the Hollis Social Library (2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, hollislibrary.org) on Mondays, at 6:45 p.m. and 7:30 p.m., and Wednesdays and Fridays, at 10:45 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. One-on-one sessions are available for most computer topics.

Music

• **UKULELE REVOLUTION OPEN HOUSE** at Music Together (102 Elm St., Milford, 429-9560, amyconleymusic.com) on Thurs., Feb. 13, from 7 to 7:30 p.m. Meet students and see the studio.

• **MUSIC CLASSES FOR ADULTS** are offered by Amy Conley in Milford, Nashua and Hollis. Classes include Ukulele Revolution, which includes all materials and is available for all ages and experience levels. There is also a Thursday drop-in jam in Milford. Call 249-9560 or visit amyconleymusic.com.

• **UKULELE CLASSES** for adults, teenagers, children and classroom teachers taught by Amy Conley at locations in Milford, Nashua and Hollis. New classes start every two months and instruments are included. Call 249-9560 or visit amyconleymusic.com.

Professional development

• **LECTURE SERIES** with Katie White, nurse of the year, on Wed., Feb. 19, from noon to 1 p.m. at Great Bay Community College (320 Corporate Dr., Portsmouth, 427-7600, greatbay.edu). Donations are asked to benefit a business student scholarship.

Health and Wellness

Workshops, seminars & events

• **LYME DISEASE CLINIC** at the Holistic Self Care Center (12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, 883-1490, thehsccenter.com) on Tues., Feb. 18, from 6 to 7 p.m. This will be a free support outlet for those to share experiences.

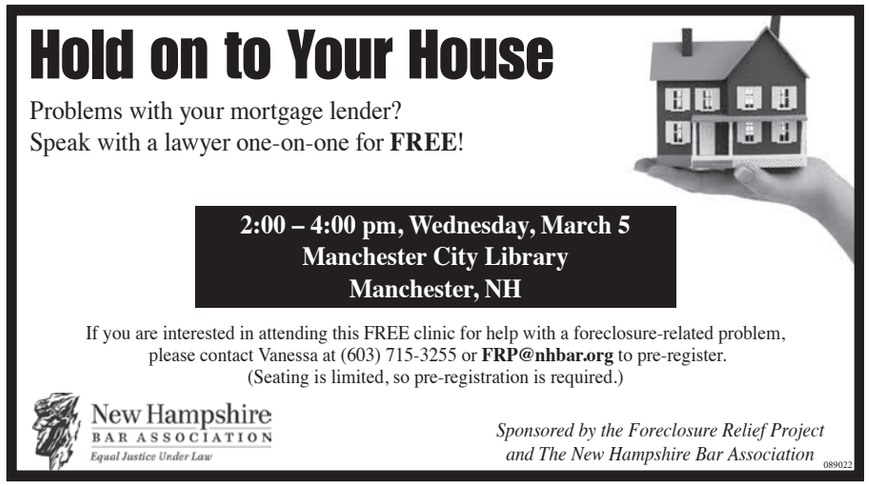
• **AFFORDABLE CARE ENROLLMENT FAIR** at Franklin Regional Hospital (80 Highland St., Laconia, 527-2895, lrgh.org) on Sat., Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bring social security number, employer name and income levels for the entire household. Free.

• **RESILIENCE CLASS** at St. Joseph Hospital (172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-3168, stjosephhos-











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IN/OUT

KIDDIE POOL

Family fun for the weekend



Chill out

Take the whole family to Portsmouth's first annual **Fire and Ice Festival**, being held Thursday, Feb. 13, through Monday, Feb. 17, at various Portsmouth venues. There will be ice bars, fire pits, hearth cooking, dog sled rides, wood fire grilled food, ice sculptures, movies and music and more throughout the week. Portsmouth restaurants will be offering deals throughout the week as well. New Hampshire Public Television will be screening films to promote its fundraising contest for a trip to Iceland at the Seacoast Repertory Theater, and there will be a show by the Players Ring of *Patrick Dorow Winter Musical*. Visit strawberrybank.org for activity days, times, locations and prices.

The **Pinnacle Mountain Ice Fishing Derby** will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Putnum Pond, Cemetery Road, Lyndeborough, 801-8015, jaysbran@hotmail.com). Kids under 15 are welcome to come compete for prizes. All of the ice fishing supplies are provided.

The Amoskeag Fishways (4 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) is presenting a two-part **introduction to ice fishing** program on Friday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to noon. Ages 10 and up. This program is free and registration is required.

Cosmos and cats

The exhibit ***Lunar Recon: Spacecraft, Craters and Cosmic Rays*** at the McAuliffe Shepard Discovery Center (2 Institute Dr., Concord, 271-7827, starhop.com)will detail the discoveries of the Lunar Reconnaissance Orbiter mission launched by NASA. The discovery center is open Thursday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sundays from 11:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Himalayan Cat Show will be held at the Grappone Conference Center (70 Constitution Ave., Manchester, patsnights@gmail.com) on Saturday, Feb. 15, and Sunday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cost is $5.

Get crafty

The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen (98 Main St., Nashua, 595-8233, nhcrafts.org) will have a class on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. to make a **zig-zag brick stitch bracelet**. Cost is $45 and the materials are $20.

The Muse Paintbar (42 Hanover St., Manchester, 421-6500, musepaintbar.com) will have a family paint night to paint **Sunset Air Balloon** on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 3:45 to 6 p.m. Cost is $29.

Playtime

Kids can participate in hiking and woodland exploration, at the **Musquash Conservation Area Field Day** on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They can also learn about winter botany and wildlife and try out snowshoeing. Park at the end of Hickory Hill Road (Londonderry, 679-5616).

Cowabungas (1328 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 625-8008, mycowabungas.com) will host **Cinderella** on Friday, Feb. 14, from 4 to 7 p.m. Cost is $10 per child and adults and babies are free. Pictures will be available with Cinderella.

pital.com/classes) with Rebecca Johnston as she teaches about how to control you stress on Mon., Feb. 24, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Cost is $10. Registration is required.

• **HEALTH INSURANCE INFO AND ENROLLMENT** at the Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherstlibrary.org) will help those interested in learning about health insurance and how to enroll in it on Mon., Feb. 24, March 3, March 10, March 17, March 17, March 24 and March 31, from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

• **PREPARE FOR SURGERY** with a guide to mind-body techniques at St. Joseph Hospital (172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-3168, stjosephhospital.com) on Mon., Feb. 24, March 24, April 28 and May 19, from 4 to 6 p.m. This seminar will teach you how to deal with surgery, headaches, anxiety and insomnia.

• **ASK A NUTRITIONIST** The Concord Food Co-op (24 S. Main St., Concord, concordfoodcoop.coop/nutritionist) will hold a free class with a registered dietitian on how to eat healthier on Tues., Feb. 25, from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

• **JOINT REPLACEMENT EDUCATION** class will be held at St. Joseph Hospital (172 Kinsley St., Nashua, 595-3168, stjosephhospital.com/classes) on Thurs., Feb. 27, March 27, April 24, and May 22, from 3:15 to 4:15 p.m. Patients scheduled with hip or knee replacement can learn more about the procedure for free.

• **SUPPLEMENTING GOOD HEALTH SERIES** The Holiday Inn (172 N. Main St., Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop/classes) will hold a class about dietary supplements on Monday nights from 6 to 7 p.m. March 3 through March 24. The cost is $35. Reservations are required.

• **ACHIEVING A HEALTHY**

IN/OUT TREASURE HUNT

Dear Donna,

I was given this as a gift a couple of years ago, and my friends said it was old. I know it is signed in the glass "Saint Louis," but other than that I have no clue as to the age. I am hoping you can help me with this.

Jay of Bow



Dear Jay,

Nice piece of Saint Louis crystal you have.

Even though cocktail shakers were very popular during the 1940s and '50s, I think yours is a more modern one. But that doesn't mean that it isn't valuable.

Saint-Louis is one of the most prestigious crystal glass manufacturers in the world. Besides being well-known for glassware, Saint-Louis also produces vases and other accessories. It has been around since the 1800s and was producing other things even earlier than that. Some can date their work back to the 1500s. (I learned this myself while doing some research for you.) I have had many pieces during my career but all have been older ones, so to find your value I had to study up on it.

As I said, Jay, your piece is a more modern one, but I would say it should be worth around $450, so your friends gave you a nice piece. And if you enjoy it, collecting more of Saint Louis Crystal would be a nice investment.

Donna Welch has spent more than 20 years in the antiques and collectibles field and owns From Out Of The Woods Antique Center in Goffstown (fromoutofthewoodsantiques.com). She is an antiques appraiser and instructor. To find out about your antique or collectible, send a clear photo of the object and information about it to Donna Welch, From Out Of The Woods Antique Center, 465 Mast Road, Goffstown, N.H., 03045. Or email her at footwdw@aol.com. Or drop by the shop (call first, 624-8668).

WEIGHT Concord Fire Department Headquarters (24 Horseshoe Pond Lane, Concord, 225-6840, concordfoodcoop.coop/classes) will hold a free class about how to exercise on Tues., March 11, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Registration is required.

Blood drives

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at Bedford High School (47B Nashua Road, Bedford redcross.org) for double red cells and blood on Thurs., Feb. 13, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Manchester Blood Donation Center (425 Reservoir Ave., Manchester, redcross.org) on Thurs., Feb. 13, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Manchester Blood Donation Center (425 Reservoir Ave., Manchester, redcross.org) on Fri., Feb. 14, from 6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Second Congregational Church (25 Gregg St., Wilton, redcross.org) on Sat., Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Manchester Blood Donation Center (425 Reservoir Ave., Manchester, redcross.org) on Sat., Feb. 15, from 6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at Chilis Grill and Bar (285 Daniel Webster Highway, Nashua, redcross.org) on Sun., Feb. 16, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Manchester Blood Donation Center (425 Reservoir Ave., Manchester, redcross.org) on Sun., Feb. 16, from 6:45 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Manchester Blood Donation Center (425 Reservoir Ave., Manchester, redcross.org) on Mon., Feb. 17, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at St. John Neumann Church (708 Milford Road, Merrimack, redcross.org) on Tues., Feb. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at Promises to Keep (199 Rockingham Road, Derry, redcross.org) on Tues., Feb. 18, from 1 tp 7 p.m.

• **BLOOD DRIVE** at the Manchester Blood Donation Center (425 Reservoir Ave., Manchester, redcross.org) on Tues., Feb. 18, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Miscellaneous

Bake/yard sales/ fundraisers/auctions

• **BASKETS FOR BOOKS** at the Exeter Public Library (4 Chestnut St., Exeter, 772-3101, exeterlibrary.com) on Fri., March 21, at 5:30 p.m. There will be dinner and silent auction.

Expos/festivals/fairs

• **FIRE AND ICE FESTIVAL** (Portsmouth, functions@portsmouthgaslight.com) Thurs., Feb. 13 through Feb. 17. There will be ice bars, fire pits, hearth cooking, dog sled rides, wood fire grilled food, ice sculptures, movies and music. Visit strawberybank.org.

• **WINTERFEST** on Fri., Feb. 21, and Sat., Feb 22, in Lowell, Mass. (978-459-6150, lowell.org). There will be an open skate, a dance party, music, games and craft activities.

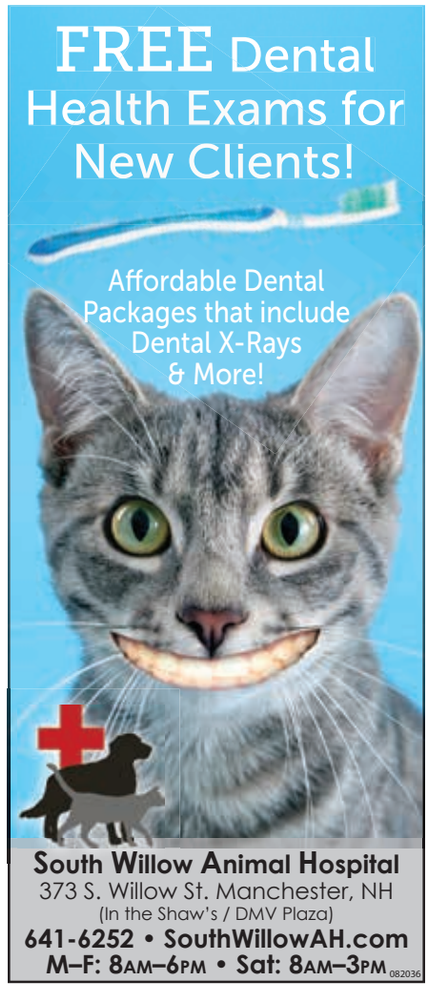
• **MAGICKAL MARKETPLACE AND PSYCHIC FAIRE** will take place on Sat., March 29, from noon to 7 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel (11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, themagickalmarketplace.com). Admission is $6 but with a donation of a nonperishable food item, price is $4.

Pets

• **HIMALAYAN CAT SHOW** at the Grappone Conference Center (70 Constrititon Ave., Manchester, patsnights@gmail.com) on Sat., Feb. 15,











Help for non functioning window



Dear Tom and Ray:

I have a Chrysler 300M with a stuck driver's window. The mechanical function is fine — when it works, it works fine. But heat seems to glue the window closed: When it's hot out, it sticks to the plastic liner and won't go down until the temperature drops. I live in Florida, so the temperature doesn't drop very often! Is there a grease, lubricant or cleaner I can use to fix this? — BJ

RAY: It's not entirely clear to me that it's sticking, BJ. You might assume it's "getting stuck" in the up position. But the window motor could be dying.

TOM: It's not unusual for a window motor to fail intermittently when it's on the way out.

RAY: Unlike my brother, who tries to be consistent by failing all the time.

TOM: Your window switch, or window relay, also could be failing in extreme heat — remember, it's a lot hotter inside a parked car than it is outside. And when do you want to open the window? When you sit down in a hot car, and it's 150 degrees inside, and you sear your thighs on the "300M" logos on the seat cushions.

RAY: So the first question for you is: Can you hear or feel the motor trying to work when the window is stuck? When you hit the window switch, is the motor straining to lower the glass?

TOM: If it is, then the switch and the motor are fine and the window is, indeed, stuck somehow.

RAY: In that case, the first thing I'd try is some silicone spray. There's rubber weatherstripping in the door that the window slides into when it's closed. Hit the inside of that weatherstripping on all three sides of the door frame with some silicone spray. Cans of silicone spray often come with thin tubes that allow you to get that gunk into small spaces. That's what you want to use.

TOM: If a good shot of silicone doesn't get the window moving freely, then you have to suspect that the window regulator is sticking. That's the mechanical erector set inside the door that actually lifts and lowers the glass. If it's binding up, then you have to get someone to remove the door panel and replace it for you.

RAY: And if that doesn't fix it, you'll have to drive to a cold-weather climate and sell the car there. Good luck, BJ.

Dear Tom and Ray:

Is it possible for a 2013 Chevy Impala that has only 7,550 miles on it to malfunction mechanically without operator error? When I got the car back after loaning it out, here's what I found: (1) Check engine light comes on. (2) Vehicle is slightly jerking. (3) Check oil light comes on. (4) Check windshield washer fluid light comes on. (5) Oil, washer fluid and one other mystery fluid (for now) are all leaking. I asked if they ran over something or hit a bump in the road, and they say they did not. I think they did. So, is it possible that the vehicle could have all those lights on and be leaking fluids with only 7,550 miles without some kind of operator error? — JamieLee

RAY: No. Whoever you lent the car to ran over a buffalo. Or maybe a brontosaurus.

TOM: You don't say who had the car, JamieLee. My experience suggests it probably was a brother!

RAY: That would be my guess. In any case, at 7,550 miles, nothing should be leaking on this car, and none of the warning lights should be coming on.

TOM: So I'd suggest that you have the car towed to the dealer as soon as possible and ask them to take a look at it. You really shouldn't even drive it there if the oil light is on.

RAY: My guess is that the service manager will come find you in the waiting room and say, "What the heck did you run over?"

TOM: And if you get confirmation from the dealer that there was an impact of some kind on the underside of the car, then you can call your insurance company and report that the car was in an accident. Which it was.

RAY: If you lend your car to somebody, your insurance policy still covers the car.

TOM: Then your insurance company can negotiate with the dealer about what can be repaired and what needs to be replaced.

RAY: And then you, personally, can negotiate with the knucklehead who borrowed your car about paying the deductible for you.

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IN/OUT

Plunging for pets

Frigid fundraiser supports shelter animals



Participants jumping in the water at last year's Doggie Paddle Plunge. Courtesy photo.

By Kaitlin Joseph
kjoseph@hippopress.com

For the last four years, Courtney Brooks has willingly jumped into the ocean in freezing winter temperatures — all in the name of helping shelter animals.

Brooks is the community outreach coordinator for the New Hampshire SPCA in Stratham and helps put on the Doggie Paddle Plunge, one of the shelter's newest fundraisers.

"Honestly, living in New England, people have a great sense of pride. We're really hardy and really gritty. The winter is bitterly cold, and it takes a certain breed of people to do this," Brooks said.

Brooks is hoping to see a good turnout and said the monetary goal is $20,000.

"The people who do this are absolutely committed to the cause and want to support the animals. [The plunge] attracts a certain type of person that wants to go above and beyond and that's willing to do anything," she said.

Even though the plunge is named for dogs, Brooks said the fundraiser will help all the animals in the shelter. Right now the shelter cares for 2,500 animals ranging from dogs and cats to smaller animals such as rabbits and birds. The shelter also cares for horses.

"We are the only full-service shelter in New Hampshire. We provide the animals with food, medical care and shelter until they find their forever home," Brooks said.

The fundraiser will help with the expenses for food and medical care. The shelter has an unlimited stay for these animals.

"It's extremely important to note that this fundraiser sustains that service for all our animals," Brooks said.

As for plunging, Brooks said you don't even realize it's cold.

"It's really fun and the energy of the event is so contagious. You don't really feel the cold; you don't think too much about it," she said. "In retrospect, it's not about the temperature, it's about the animals."

Brooks owns a dachshund and a retired racing greyhound, both former shelter dogs. She said the dogs have brought happiness to her life and knows animals at the shelter can "bring joy to other people's lives the same way."

The plunge will have prizes for a costume contest and clothing for those who raise a certain amount of money. There will also be coffee and a light breakfast before the plunge and lunch available post-plunge.

Brooks noted that as much as this event is for the animals, the plunge itself is only for people — pets should stay at home.

"I think that all the people who participate and donate show an extreme pride in the community and what the shelter does to help any and all animals in need and for us to keep doing it in the future," Brooks said.

Doggie Paddle Plunge

Where: Great Island Common, 301 Wentworth Road, New Castle
When: Saturday, Feb. 22, at 11 a.m.
Contact: 772-2921
Visit: nhspca.org

and Sun., Feb. 16, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. $5.

Games

• **QUEEN CITY KAMIKAZE** an anime and video game convention, will be held on Sun., Feb. 16, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at Manchester Memorial High School (1 Crusader Way, Manchester, qeencitykamikaze.com). Admission is $10.

• **MAHJONG** at the Bedford Public Library (3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford) meets on select Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 1 p.m. The group is currently seeking additional players and those who are interested should contact the Bedford Recreation Department at 472-5242.

• **MAH JONGG** at Rye Public Library (581 Washington Road, Rye, 964-8401) Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. Visit the library for American-style Mah Jongg. All levels welcome.



WILL YOU BE MY VALENTINE?

Want to spend some quality time with loved ones on Valentine's Day? Here are some suggestions:

Folsom Tavern (164 Water St., Exeter,772-2622, independencemuseum.org) will host Kathleen Campbell of Cornucopia on Thursday, Feb. 13, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. to educate and offer samples of wine and chocolate for the **Romancing the Tavern** event. Every couple will get a rose and have the option of having a personal love letter transcribed onto parchment. $18 per person.

The Pelham Public Library (24 Village Green, Pelham, 635-7581, pelhampubliclibrary.com) will have a **Valentine Drop-in Craft** day on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 3:30 p.m. Kids of any age can come in and use supplies to create a superhero or butterfly valentine.

Kids can go to the Nashua Public Library (2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org) to make and enjoy some **Valentine's Day cookies** on Thursday, Feb. 13. Ages 4 to 6 may attend at 1 p.m. and ages 6 to 10 may attend at 4 p.m. Call to register.

The Children's Museum (6 Washington St., Dover, 742-2002, childrens-museum.org) will host **Valentine's Night** on Friday, Feb. 14, from 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. The cost is $30 for children ages 5 and older and their families. There will be a scavenger hunt, make-it-or-break-it workshop, take-home creative projects and pizza for dinner.

There will be a **Super Singles Valentine's Dance** at the Nashua Crowne Plaza Hotel (2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, 886-1200) on Friday, Feb. 14, from 7:15 p.m. to midnight. There will be a dance lesson at the beginning of the night and the rest of the night is to socialize and dance. Tickets are $15. This dance is geared for adults ages 35 to 60. There will also be prizes.

Go for a **Valentine's Day Sleigh Ride** at Charmingfare Farm (Candia, 483-5623, visitthefarm.com) on Friday, Feb. 14. Soup is available for the ride. Choose a private sleigh ride or a ride with other couples. Pricing varies.

There will be 2 for 1 **Skiing with your Sweetheart** at Gunstock Mountain Resort (719 Cherry Valley Road, Gilford, 293-4341, gunstock.com) on Friday, Feb. 14. Couples can ski for the price of one and enjoy some specials at the Powder Keg Bar & Grill.

Attend a **Valentine's Day Dance** at the Merrimack YMCA (6 Henry Clay Dr., Merrimack, 881-7778, nmymca.org) on Friday, Feb. 14, from 8 to 9:45 p.m. This event is open to ages 18+ and will feature lessons in rumba and salsa. This dance is free.

Beaver Brook (117 Ridge Road, Hollis, 465-7787, beaverbrook.org) will have a **Valentine's Day Couples Snowshoe Hike** on Friday, Feb. 14, from 7 to 9 p.m. Relax by the bonfire with cocoa and tea. Admission is $30 per couple. Register online or by phone.

Make like a high-schooler and attend a grown-up **Sweetheart Dance** at the Shepard Auditorium at Pinkerton Academy (5 Pinkerton St., Derry, getinstep@comcast.net, nhabda.com) on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 6:45 to 11 p.m. Cost is $17 with $2 at the door. Reservations are requested through email by Thursday, Feb. 13. There will be dance lessons by Paper Moon Dance Studio at the beginning of the event.

The St. James United Methodist Church (646 Daniel Webster Highway, Merrimack, 424-7459, stjames-umchurch.org) will have a **St. Valentine's Tea** on Saturday, Feb. 15, from 2 to 4 p.m. Cost is $6 for adults, $4 for children ages 12 and under. There will be gluten-free options.

A **Valentine's Luncheon** will be held at the Salvation Army (121 Cedar St., Manchester, 627-7013) on Thursday, Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m. for Manchester senior citizens.

Other

• **COIN AND CURRENCY EXPO** at the Radisson Hotel (700 Elm St., Manchester, 978-658-0160, nhcoinexpo.com) will take place on Fri., Feb. 14, and again on Sat., Feb. 15, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tickets are $3 per day or $5 for both days.

• **THE HOUSE OF WISDOM:** How Arabic Science Saved Ancient Knowledge and Gave Us the Renaissance, a presentation by Jim Al-Khalili at the Kingston Library (2 Library Lane, Kingston, 643-3521, Kingston-library.org) on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.

• **TEAM SEAL 6** parents Billy and Karen Vaughn will be at the Lawrence Barn (28 Depot Road, Hollis, nashua4act@verizon.net) on Sat., Feb. 22, from 4 to 6 p.m. to answer any questions about the team that killed Osama Bin Laden in 2011. They will also sign copies of their new book, *Betrayed*. A donation of $20 is suggested.

Travel & culture

• **YEAR IN MOROCCO** at the Amherst Town Library (14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288, amherst.lib.nh.us) will host Barry Pell with a presentation about a trip to Morocco on Tues., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.

• **POST-AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST: PAKISTAN'S PLACE** will be held at University of New Hampshire Manchester (400 Commercial St., Manchester) on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 6 p.m. Registration required at wacnh.org.

Weddings

• **WEDDING EXPO** at Radisson Hotel (700 Elm St., Manchester, 866-493-0986, newenglandbridalexpo.com Sun., Feb. 16, from 1 to 4:30 p.m. Cost is $6.

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IN/OUT THE GARDENING GUY

Get off the couch and go

Spring flower shows start soon

By Henry Homeyer
listings@hippopress.com



I'm not a big fan of the movies, but I remember a film from the 1960s that opened with people trudging across a snow-swept plain somewhere in Russia wearing large fur hats and cumbersome boots. *Doctor Zhivago*, perhaps? Sometimes it seems that we're all in that movie. If you're finding winter dreary, you need to go to one of the many spring flower shows — or maybe all of them.

The first flower show each year is the one held by the New Hampshire Orchid Society, this year Feb. 14 through Feb. 16. It is just orchids. Orchids of all kinds, and paraphernalia for orchid growers. Adults are $10, seniors $6, kids under 12 are free. It's at the Radisson Hotel in Nashua. For info: nhorchids.org.

The first big shows are the weekend of Feb. 20-23 in Providence, R.I., and Hartford, Conn. They are both excellent and worth a visit. They'll have flowering trees and luscious flowers, a multitude of vendors selling everything from bulbs and cut flowers to books and vases, and of course, educational lectures.

The Providence Show has always been one of my favorites. (Full disclosure: I am lecturing Friday and Saturday at the show in Providence). This year the Providence Show is including vintage cars in the garden displays. I phoned Chuck Carberry, one of the show's organizers, who told me that each major exhibit will include an antique or vintage car — from a Model A Ford in a *Great Gatsby*-themed garden to a 1970s Ferrari in an Italian grotto garden. Not only that, the show will feature an old-time drive-in theater!

Each year at Providence I love the sand sculpture — castles big enough for children or gnomes — and this year, given the car theme, they are going to have an old-fashioned "woodie" made of sand. The sculptors work on their creations during much of the show, so you can see how they do what they do. The same is true of the designers of the various flower exhibits — they are there to answer questions, which is nice. For info go to flowershow.com.

The Hartford show is held at the Connecticut Convention Center, which is a great space for such a big show – handy to the interstate, plenty of parking. They pride themselves on their seminars — 12 per day, Friday to Sunday. The Federated Garden Clubs have a big space on the show floor, allowing individual exhibitors to show off their house plants, cactus and arrangements. Tickets are $16, and unlike most shows, they accept cash only! Info: ctflowershow.com.

The Philadelphia Flower Show is March 1-9. It is the original flower show (having started in 1829) and certainly the biggest and most expensive. Daily tickets are $27 and they sell a VIP all-access ticket for $125! But you have to attend at least once in your life. Go during the week when crowds are less, if you can. For info: theflowershow.com. I love this show for its sheer size and diversity. And there are lots of exhibits by ordinary gardeners, which I like.

The Portland, Maine, Flower Show is March 6-9 at the Portland Company Complex on Fore Street, downtown. Tickets cost $13 in advance. Info: portlandcompany.com. This year's theme is Storybook Gardens.

The Boston Flower Show is another extravaganza. This year, designers have been asked to "create a small freestanding garden inspired by a scene of romance or seduction from a specific, named piece of literature, a movie or a popular song." It's being held March 12-16 at the Seaport World Trade Center. Tickets are $20 and worth it! For info: bostonflowershow.com. Get there at opening time (10 a.m. during the week, 9 a.m. on the weekend) before the crowds get too big.

After Boston comes The Seacoast Home and Garden Show in Durham on March 29-30, a nice small show with 220 vendors and a reasonable fee to get in — tickets are only $8. Info: NewEnglandExpos.com.

The last show of the season is in Bangor, Maine, from April 4 to April 6 in the Cross Insurance Center in Bangor, a new venue. This is another small show, but it sounds good. I've never been to this one, but I see that this year they will have a beer tasting garden. For info: bangorgardenshow.com.

It's really fun to see so many people walking around carrying blooming daffodils or pussywillows to bring spring home a little early. So get off the couch and go!

Henry Homeyer is a gardening teacher, coach and public speaker. Reach him at henry.homeyer@comcast.net.

Good and bad cholesterol

Understanding the difference

By Joel Bergeron
listings@hippopress.com



Cholesterol has been referred to as the "slow, silent killer." Many of us are unaware that some of the foods we eat, coupled with an inactive lifestyle, may be more harmful than we think. We're clogging up our arteries and forcing our hearts to work harder; currently, heart disease is the leading cause of death in America.

So what is cholesterol? It's a fat-like substance that is necessary to life. It plays a role in the production of hormones, helps keep vitamin and mineral content within the body balanced, and is involved in food digestion. When it's balanced, your body functions well. However, when it's unbalanced, your arteries can become clogged and the heart has to work harder to push blood through your circulatory system.

Two substances help transport cholesterol throughout your body; low-density lipoprotein (LDL) and high-density lipoprotein (HDL). When you visit the doctor's office for a blood test you hear about three different numbers: HDL, LDL, and total cholesterol. The general rule of thumb is to keep your total cholesterol (which is HDL and LDL combined) below 200. HDL should be above 50, whereas LDL should be below 130 for healthy individuals.

LDL is considered "bad" cholesterol because it transports fat toward the heart and clogs your arteries. When the inside of your arteries shrink your blood pressure rises and if they become plugged near your heart you suffer a heart attack. HDL is our friend, though. It sends cholesterol packing by transporting it toward the liver to be broken down, helping keep the circulatory system functioning properly.

Other factors influence your LDL and HDL numbers as well. For LDL, inactivity, stress and poor diet (one rich in fat, cholesterol-ridden foods and simple sugars) can cause your numbers to skyrocket. Avoiding these things can help keep your LDL numbers under control. HDL is directly affected by cardiovascular exercise such as aerobics, jogging, swimming, or cycling, and resistance training has some effect as well.

Monitoring your cholesterol is a life-long process but it's one of the best investments you can make. Staying active, eating healthy, and being consistent all contribute to a longer life span and, most importantly, a better quality of living as we age. Positive habits help keep your cholesterol numbers in the green.

Do you have a question about health and fitness that you'd like answered in the Healthy Hippo? Email Joel Bergeron at info@nlpstrength.com. Joel is a former NCAA D1 and professional sports coach and holds a master's degree in sport science. Be sure to check with your doctor before changing your eating habits or embarking on a new exercise program.

• ATKINSON RESORT AND COUNTRY CLUB BRIDAL SHOW on March 9, at 1 p.m. at the Atkinson Resort & Country Club (85 Country Club Dr., Atkinson, bridenh.com). Admission is $5.

Nature

Animals/insects

• BUG NIGHTS at St. Paul's School (Boscawen, 796-2615, merrimackriver.org) to learn about bugs will be held on Wednesdays, Feb. 19, Feb 26, March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, April 9, April 16 and April 23, from 6 to 9 p.m.

• WILY WEASELS The Amoskeag Fishways (4 Fletcher St., Manchester, 626-3474, amoskeagfishways.org) will host a family program about weasels, otters and minks on Thurs., Feb. 28, from 7 to 8 p.m. Cost is $5 per family. Registration is required.

• WINTER MAMMAL TRACKING at the Fells Historic Estate and Gardens (456 Route 103A, Newbury, 763-4789 x3, thefells.org) on Sat., March 1, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dave Anderson will talk about identification tips. Cost is $16.

Birds

• WINTER BIRD BANDING at the Squam Lakes Natural Science Center (23 Science Center Road, Holderness, 968-7194, nhnature.org) will be held on Wed., Feb 19, from 10 a.m. to noon. Cost is $10 and attendees will see how birds are captured and banded.

Gardening/farming

• ORCHID LOVE AFFAIR New Hampshire Orchid Society will hold its Orchid Love Affair show and sale on Fri., Feb. 14, from 1 to 7 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Radisson Hotel (11 Tara Blvd., Nashua, 888-9970, Radisson.com/nhorchilds2014). Admission is $10, free for children under 12.

• COVER CROP AND SOIL HEALTH FORUM at the NH Audubon Center (84 Farm Silk Road, Concord, 223-6023, becca.nhacd@gmail.com) on Feb. 18, from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. There wil be a live video stream from the national cover crops and soil health conference. Free parking and lunch is provided. Register by Feb. 7.

• SEED WORKSHOPS at Canterbury Shaker Village (288 Shaker Road, Canterbury, shakers.org, noranh.org) on Fri., Feb. 21, from 6 to 8 p.m. about the power of seeds and rebuilding seed heritage. There will also be another workshop on Sat., Feb. 22, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. for organic farmers and fardends about seed production and technical assistance. Cost for first workshop is $13.50. Cost is $45 for second workshop and includes lunch.







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weekly DISH

News from the local food scene

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

• **New cafe comes to Hudson:** Benson's Bakery & Cafe (203 Central St., Hudson, 718-8683) opened Monday, Jan. 27, across the street from its namesake, Hudson's former animal park. "It's been very, very busy," co-owner Cory Boutin said. "Every day last week we had to close early because we ran out of food. … I would say the first day, almost 300 people walked in and out of here." Co-owners Boutin and Emily Erickson were born and raised in Hudson. Both have experience in the food industry (Boutin also owns a local pizza restaurant). Benson's is open daily from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday, and closes at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and 3 p.m. on Sundays. Visit facebook.com/BensonsBakeryCafe.

• **When one door closes...:** Able Ebenezer Brewing Co. received approval from the Merrimack Planning Board last month and plans to open a new facility at 31 Columbia Circle this spring. The last time the Hippo talked to Able Ebenezer, back in November, they were holding their first beer tasting out of the garage of Carl Soderberg, one of the four founders. At that time they said that with the new facility, they planned to increase production to 310-gallon containers to support growlers and local distribution. See ableebenezer.com.

• **More fro-yo:** Orange Leaf Frozen Yogurt has plans to open at least six new self-serve frozen yogurt shops in Salem, Bedford, Derry, Nashua, Keene and Seabrook. The Oklahoma-based frozen yogurt chain has store locations in Concord, Epping, Dover, Portsmouth, Dover, Exeter, Amherst and Nashua. See orangeleafyogurt.com.

• **Sign up for a CSA:** February is the time to sign up for CSA shares on the seacoast. The Rollinsford winter farmers market (which meets next on Saturday, Feb. 22) will host CSA farmers to answer questions about shareholder opportunities. The market meets at Wentworth Greenhouses (141 Rollins Road, Rollinsford). Visit seacoastlocal.org.

• **Weekly wine tasting:** Tuscan Market (67 Main St., Salem, 912-5467, tuscanbrands.com) will hold week-

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FOOD

Travel the world in Concord

Co-op offers World Cuisine Tour

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

Starting next week with a *Downton Abbey*-inspired menu, the Celery Stick Café at Concord Food Co-op is dedicating Thursdays to global cuisine.

The hot bar will transform each Thursday, from Feb. 20 through May 15, to reflect a menu based on a different region of cuisine each week.

The idea for the World Cuisine Tour came from the popularity of the Celery Stick Café's hot bar themed meals during SNOB Fest at Red River Theatres last fall.

"Being here as a culinary professional, it certainly opens up a lot of room for creativity," Celery Stick Café Executive Chef Scott Jones said. "There are going to be some areas that are going to be pretty challenging. … It's going to be fun; I'm looking forward to it."

Diners will be able to pick up a passport and receive stamps each time they dine on the themed Thursday meals. After receiving five stamps, diners will receive a free ticket to a future Co-op event. With 10 stamps diners will receive two tickets.

World Cuisine Tour

When: Thursdays, Feb. 20, through May 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.
Where: Concord Food Co-op, 24 S. Main St., Concord
Visit: See concordfoodcoop.coop to check out the menu each week



Concord Food Co-op Executive Chef Scott Jones (left) and Executive Pastry Chef Elaine Speer (right) are ready to cook and bake around the world this spring. Courtesy photo.

"Scott in the kitchen spent a lot of time researching the different cuisines," Concord Food Co-op Marketing Manager Greg Lessard said. "It's not too often that you get to sample foods from different regions."

Weekly themes include Mediterranean, with a Grecian, Portuguese, Italian and Spanish influenced menu, and Eastern Europe, with "stops" in Armenia, Russia, Belarus and Ukraine.

"The tour made more sense when it was starting in England and setting south," Lessard said of kicking off the tour with a *Downton Abbey*-inspired menu. "We had a globe out and we were mapping it all out, so there was some logic behind how we wanted to do it."

Each week will feature 12 dishes on the hot bar, available for dine-in and takeout, plus a featured dessert from the Co-op's pastry chef. On four select Sundays, diners will also feature a regional beer and wine tasting from 5 to 7 p.m.

No matter what the week's cuisine is, Lessard said, the food will be fresh and local.

"The chef meets with the farmers as well," Lessard said. "Right now, for example, we are sitting down with all the farmers and working out with them what we need for them to produce for the year, and chef sits down with them as well. … So I think that's a unique advantage to our hot bar as well."

Grilled cheese goes gourmet

Grab soup, melts and salads at Souper Melt

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

This isn't your average grilled-cheese-and-tomato-soup kind of restaurant.

At Souper Melt, you can order a classic grilled cheese — like GC-101 with Cooper sharp American and cheddar cheeses on toasted Canadian white bread — or try a foodie-inspired grilled cheese like the Mediterranean with mozzarella, feta, spinach, garlic, tomato, artichoke hearts, onion and kalamata olives on white artisan bread.

"How many standard grilled cheese sandwiches have you had in your life?" owner Kevin Cornish asked. "It's amazing how many people come in and want to tell me what they have in their grilled cheese, from mustard to pickles. Everybody has their way that they were probably brought up on."

Souper Melt opened on Second Street on Manchester's West Side last July, but Cornish said business has picked up since then as people come in looking for a comfort food fix during the cold months.

Cornish isn't new to the Manchester restaurant scene. He also owns KC's Rib Shack, and he doesn't have far to go between his two restaurants, since KC's is located right behind Souper Melt.

His newest restaurant's menu features 12 grilled cheese sandwiches, as well as a "Build a Melt" option, a three-step guide for customizable sandwiches (say, Muenster cheese on marble rye with Genoa salami if you'd like, or switch out the salami for chicken).

"I like having the selections for people that they may not think about on their own," Cornish said. "Anybody can have a grilled cheese sandwich. … I think a lot of times people who aren't necessarily foodies



Kevin Cornish, owner of KC's Rib Shack, stands by the chalk art in his new specialty grilled cheese restaurant, Souper Melt. Emelia Attridge photo.

have a hard time conceptualizing … that they want apples in their grilled cheese. … We did the work for them."

Customers can order a side soup from six of the restaurant's daily and weekly soup specials.

"It's a concept that I had seen out west, a couple of just grilled cheese specialty restaurants, and I thought it was a cool concept. Soup and grilled cheese just go together so well," Cornish said. "I think one of the things that separates us is the fact we're using large artisan bread. We don't even have American cheese here."

> *How many standard grilled cheese sandwiches have you had in your life?*
>
> KEVIN CORNISH

One of the more creative grilled cheeses is the Grace Potter (as in Vermont-based rock band, Grace Potter and the Nocturnals). Cornish saw a YouTube video of Potter making a gourmet grilled cheese on her tour bus and was inspired.

"I just always wanted to serve that sandwich at KC's," Cornish said. "The Grace Potter has hot pepper jelly on the bread with apples and bacon and Cabot cheeses."

The sandwiches are all made on the grill top. Each slice of bread is grilled separately so cheeses and other ingredients can cook and melt before pressing the sandwich is pressed together.

"The cheese has always got to be the star of the show," Cornish said. "You have to pull the two pieces of bread apart."

Cornish said next he'd like to offer weekly grilled cheese specials, like the soups and salads, and is looking to add sweet grilled cheeses with ingredients like Nutella and brie.

Souper Melt

Where: 845 Second St., Manchester
Hours: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.
Call: 935-7342
Visit: soupermeltgrilledcheese.com

A taste of Paris, from Derry

Moochie's Macarons whips up popular French pastry

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

Nina DiBona Pauk had everything she needed for her Parisian-inspired dinner with her husband, except the pièce de résistance: the French macaron.

"I was surprised I couldn't find them anywhere in Boston, so I just started making them myself," she said. "I discovered that they're very difficult to make, so it kind of became a challenge."

Now, DiBona Pauk is making her own hand-crafted, small-batch macarons at Creative Chef Kitchens, a commercial kitchen space in Derry. She began Moochie's Macarons in the fall of 2012 and now makes orders for showers, birthday parties and weddings and operates wholesale accounts in Massachusetts and in New Hampshire.

"The few that are carrying them in New Hampshire are doing really well with them," DiBona Pauk said. "Everything is handmade in small batches. The almond flour is all sifted by hand, they're all piped by hand, filled by hand, packed by hand, shipped by hand. ... It's all done by me right now. … Aside from having a KitchenAid mixer, there's no machine that's making them. They're made with love for sure."

Macarons might just be the next cupcake, or so it seems, based on the pastry's appearance in films, shows like *Gossip Girl* and print ads for Clinique. Martha Stewart and Oprah Winfrey have both featured the Parisian treat in their magazines, and Starbucks sold boxes of macarons for the holidays. In Paris, macarons can be found in McDonalds' McCafés.

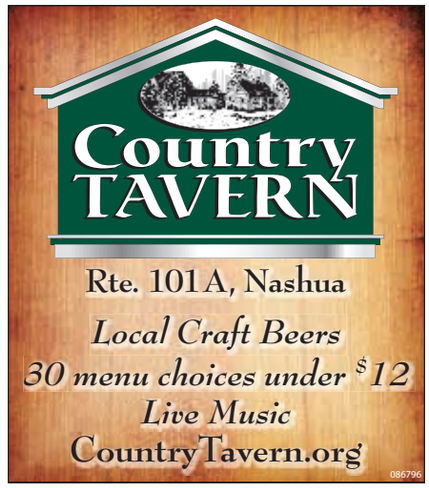


Taste a splash of color with Moochie's Macarons. Courtesy photo.

"I think there's this allure and this unknown," DiBona Pauk said.

Macarons are made by sifting almond flour and powdered sugar together, then folding that mixture into a meringue. Prior to baking, DiBona Pauk pipes the mixture into circles on a baking sheet and waits for each to dry.









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"I compare it to nail polish. If you touch your nail polish before it's dry, it will sort of be tacky. You want to wait for it not to stick to your finger to touch them," she said. "So, if it's humid that day it will take forever for them to dry. And you won't have a nice-looking macaron if you bake them before they're ready. … They're a crazy little pastry, but they're worth all the work when they come out right."

Moochie's Macarons come in flavors like pistachio, toasted coconut, lemon poppy seed, Belgian chocolate ganache, fig preserves, espresso, lavender honey and peanut butter and honey buttercream. DiBona Pauk uses local honey from a beekeeper in Epping for a few flavors.

"The colors coordinate to the flavors. Something that is really fun about them is that they can be color customized," DiBona Pauk said. "They are as pretty as they are delicious."

Fillings like ganache, buttercream and preserves are piped into the cookie-like sandwiches.

"They're just a truly unique texture if you've never had one," DiBona Pauk said. "[People] look at them and they think they're going to be this hard, crunchy, almost biscotti-like texture but they're actually this crisp outside, and once you bite through that crispness it sort of melts away in your mouth. Kind of like a cloud, almost."

Moochie's Macarons

Available in coffee shops and stores at select locations in Massachusetts and the following New Hampshire locations. Or email moochiesmacarons@gmail.com or call 978-310-1610 to place an order.

- **Farm and Flower Market** (15 Webster St., Manchester, 625-6700)
- **D Squared Java** (155 Water St., Exeter, 583-5646)
- **Fiddlehead Farms** (920 Central Ave., Dover, 749-9800)

See moochiesmacarons.com.

Jump! for snacking joy

Wholesome snacks meet dietary needs

By Emelia Attridge
food@hippopress.com

Stout cupcakes, beer caramels, gluten-free toffee and dairy-free chocolates — those are just a few of the samples Jump! Snacks' owner Robin McCune had spread out on the table at a recent Bedford Fields Winter Farmers Market.

"I just want to make sure I can offer people as wide a variety as possible," McCune said. "That way when you're at a farmers market and you're dairy-free or gluten-free, you should still be able to get something there."

McCune relates the experience to shopping in the grocery store and having to refuse the free samples. Her youngest son is allergic to dairy, so when it comes to Jump! Snacks, she wants to be as transparent and accessible as she can. The ingredients are listed clearly on the front of her labels instead of in a small font on the bottom of the packaging.

McCune started baking and created Jump! Snacks in the fall of 2013 after she visited the Center for Women's Business Enhancement at Southern New Hampshire University. She needed to find an alternative job in order to stay at home during the day with her three children, and Jump! Snacks seemed like the right plan at the right time.

"When I was little I always wanted to own a bakery," McCune said. "I came up with the name Jump! because my favorite saying is, 'Leap and the net shall appear.' So I thought, if there's any time to jump, it's now."

Currently, Jump! Snacks products, like gluten-free brownies and dairy-free chocolates, are available at Harvest Market in Bedford. On weekends, McCune has a booth at the Bedford Fields and Newmarket winter farmers markets.



Find Jump! Snacks and owner Robin McCune at the Bedford Fields or Newmarket winter farmers markets. Emelia Attridge photo.

Her favorite snacks include the chocolate stout cupcake and the peanut butter cup.

"[It] is only four ingredients," McCune said about her version of the candy. "I think people look towards whole ingredients that are simple. It's cocoa, confectionery sugar, all natural peanut butter and extra virgin coconut oil."

Many of the recipes come from experiments and conversations with market-goers seeking vegan, dairy-free or gluten-free alternatives. Some are recipes handed down to her.

"I've been baking all my life. My mom

taught me how to bake; her mom taught her," she said.

Her recipe for the gluten-free chocolate chip meringues were a great-aunt's recipe, a family favorite at Christmastime.

"I like the fun recipes — like making things with beer — trying new things and interesting things," she said. "I think my art school days are coming back to say, 'You can't just do a chocolate chip cookie;' I have to do a bacon chocolate chip cookie or something odd, different. I like to think outside the box."

McCune will be sharing her beer-inspired snacks at IncrediBREW in Nashua on Thursday, Feb. 27, for "Stouts 'n Snacks."

"I always liked experimenting in the kitchen. And I like to experiment with different foods that are odd or off the beaten path," McCune said.

Jump! Snacks are made in McCune's homestead licensed kitchen, but she reminds customers at the farmers market that while she is careful about cross-contamination, it's not a completely gluten-free kitchen.

McCune donates 10 percent of her net profit to charity each quarter. During her first quarter, she donated to P.A.N.D.A.S. Network to help spread awareness about Pediatric Autoimmune Illness Associated with Streptococci. This quarter, McCune said, she will be making her donation to Easter Seals of New Hampshire's Autism program.

Jump! Snacks

Available at:

- **Harvest Market** (209 Route 101, Bedford)
- **Bedford Fields Winter Market** (331 Route 101, Bedford) Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Feb. 15 and March 8
- **Newmarket Winter Farmers Market** (Newmarket High School, 213 S. Main St., Newmarket) on the first and third Saturdays through May, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Food

Valentine's Day dinners

• **11 ELEVEN BISTRO** (36 Lowell St., Manchester, 218-3353) will be serving Valentine's Day specials (oysters Rockefeller, five-spiced salmon, tomahawk veal chop, bone-in filet mignon and death-by-chocolate dessert) during regular dining hours on Friday, Feb. 14, and Saturday, Feb. 15.

• **ALAN'S OF BOSCAWEN** (133 N. Main St., Boscawen, 753-6631, alansofboscawen.com) will be serving its Valentine's Day supper on Friday and Saturday from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m. featuring items not on the regular menu (like chateaubriand for two carved tableside) along with its regular dinner menu.

• **BEDFORD VILLAGE INN** (2 Olde Bedford Way, Bedford, 800-852-1166, bedfordvillageinn.com) has a four-course menu on Valentine's Day from 5 to 10 p.m. There will be a Valentine's weekend brunch on both Saturday and Sunday.

• **BLACK FOREST CAFE** (212 Route 101, Amherst, 672-0500, theblackforestcafe.com) will have dinner specials on Friday, Feb. 14, from 5 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, Feb. 15, from 5 to 8 p.m., in addition to special Valentine's Day bakery treats.

• **BLUAQUA** (292 Route 101, Amherst, 673-4321, bluaquarestaurant.com) is taking reservations for dinner on Friday.

• **CASK & VINE** (1½ E. Broadway, Derry, 965-3454, caskandvine.com) is taking reservations for Friday starting at 4 p.m. with options like lobster bisque, baked stuff oysters, pistachio crusted rack of lamb and a chocolate plate for two.

• **CHATEAU** (201 Hanover St., Manchester, 627-2677, chateaunh.com) will have Valentine's Day specials during regular hours on Friday and Saturday nights in addition to performances by Stage One Productions, *Sex Please We're Sixty*, on Friday, Feb. 14, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. (curtain at 8:45 p.m. both days), and Sunday, Feb. 16, at 11:30 a.m. Call 669-5511 for ticket prices.

• **COLBY HILL INN** (33 The Oaks St., Henniker, 428-3281, colbyhillinn.com) has a prix-fixe menu for two at $48 per person (four appetizers, five main courses to choose from, ends with chocolate fondue) during regular hours all week long. Reservations are from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

• **COMMON MAN** (25 Water St., Concord, 228-3463; 88 Range Road, Windham, 898-0088; 304 Daniel Webster Hwy., Merrimack, 429-3463, thecman.com) will be offer diners on Friday a complimentary flower and white chocolate, plus entry to win a romantic overnight for two at the Common Man in Plymouth or Claremont.

• **COPPER DOOR** (15 Leavey Drive, Bedford, 488-2677, copperdoorrestaurant.com) will have Valentine's Day specials (caramelized sea scallops, herb-crusted chateaubriand, surf and turf, chocolate hazelnut torte for two) all day during regular hours, Thursday through Sunday. Regular menu also available.

• **THE COUNTRY SPIRIT** (262 Maple St., Henniker, 428-



COCOA FOR A CAUSE

Big Papa's Hot Cocoa Stand is back to brave another wintry day. Since 2009, brothers Brandon and Tyler Blanchette have been organizing a driveway hot cocoa stand in Hudson with the mission to help end Alzheimer's. This year's hot cocoa fundraiser is on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 62 Ferry St., Hudson. Funds benefits the Alzheimer's Association Massachusetts and New Hampshire chapter. Visit facebook.com/bigpapasstand.

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IN THE KITCHEN WITH ROBERT CLOUGH



Robert Clough is the executive chef at the Radisson Hotel Manchester Downtown and JD's Tavern (700 Elm St., Manchester, 625-1000, radisson.com). Born and raised in New Hampshire, Clough joined the culinary department at the hotel in November. "Taking this position was very much coming home," he said. Clough attended the University of New Hampshire in Durham and has been employed as the executive chef for Courtyard Marriott and CoCo Key Water Resort in Fitchburg, Mass., the sous chef for Boston Park Plaza Hotel and Towers in Boston, the executive sous chef for the Sheraton Ferncroft Hotel in Danvers, Mass., as well as the executive sous chef for Wentworth by the Sea in Rye. Clough recently rewrote the menu for JD's Tavern (available in February) and has been making changes to the banquet and wedding menus at the hotel.

What is your must-have kitchen item?
Must have fresh herbs.

What would you choose for your last meal?
I'd probably do something very simple. A very rare New York sirloin and a nice glass of red wine to wash it down.

Favorite restaurant besides your own?
I like to find places that have a very eclectic menu. Mint Bistro, Z when it was here. I enjoy Cotton.

What celebrity would you like to see eating at your restaurant?
Robert Irvine or Gordon Ramsay. I'm up for constructive criticism. I've met Robert Irvine before, and if he was here, and he had constructive criticism, definitely he'd have my undivided attention.

What is the biggest food trend in New Hampshire right now?
Probably going into small plates.

What is your favorite meal to cook at home?
Between mac and cheese with buffalo chicken in it, or some sort of special mac and cheese, or I'd just go for something rustic: very rare steak and a salad. When I'm at home I make my steak very, very rare.

What is your favorite dish on your restaurant's menu?
On the JD's menu we have some flatbread pizzas. I call it the Tuckerman's — braised beef, caramelized onions, local Berkshire bleu cheese. I think it's fantastic.
— *Emelia Attridge*

Pomodoro sauce

Recipe from the kitchen of Robert Clough, executive chef at Radisson Hotel Manchester and JD's Tavern. Produces large quantity; decrease measurements for smaller number of servings.

2 cups roasted garlic oil
2 yellow onions diced
2 cups roasted garlic puree
½ can tomato paste
6 cups red wine
1 cup dry basil
1 cup dry oregano
1 cup dry thyme
12 cans plum tomatoes
3 cans water
4 cups sugar
Salt and black pepper to taste

Heat oil in kettle, saute onion and garlic paste. Add in tomato paste, wine and herbs. Let cook for 10 to 15 minutes until cooked down. Next add in plum tomatoes, rinse out can with water, add up to three cans worth of water. Add in sugar and simmer sauce for 45 minutes. Season with salt and pepper. Bur mix lightly, sauce should still have chunks of tomato.

7007, countryspirithenniker.com) will be serving a special dinner menu on Valentine's Day along with its regular menu including chateaubriand for two with lobster sauce. Reservations encouraged.

• **DRUMLINS RESTAURANT** (161 Gorham Pond Road, Goffstown, 497-8633, golfstonebridgecc.com) Stonebridge Country Club's restaurant will be offering a prix-fixe three-course dinner on Friday and Saturday. Reservations required.

• **EPOCH RESTAURANT AND BAR** (2 Pine St., Exeter, 778-3762, epochrestaurant.com) will be offering a special menu with appetizers, entrées (like red skin snapper or a grilled Delmonico steak for two) and dessert accompanied with the new winter dinner menu.

• **FIREFLY BISTRO** (22 Concord St., Manchester, 935-9740, fireflynh.com) will be serving specials on Valentine's Day during regular hours.

• **FRATELLO'S** (155 Dow St.,

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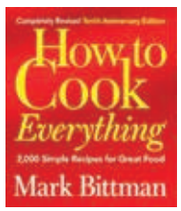
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COOKBOOK THROWDOWN

By Amy Diaz



How To Cook Everything
by Mark Bittman (2nd edition 2008, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

VS



The America's Test Kitchen Cooking School Cookbook
(2013, Boston Common Press)

The goal: To pit two vaguely related cookbooks against each other and arbitrarily declare a champion.

The competitors: This is champion versus champion — I am pitting my two favorite cookbook-producers against each other to test out one's recently released cooking tome.

Battleground:

FILET MIGNON

How To Cook Everything

The cookbook: I love this cookbook. This book is to kitchens what a dictionary is to a home office: even people who only write letters occasionally need one dead-trees dictionary, and even people who only make the occasional pancakes need *How To Cook Everything*. Because this really is "everything" — sauteed artichoke hearts, steamed clams, yellow-cake cupcakes, roast turkey, grilled corn. You name a dish or an ingredient and this book will give you at least some basic idea for how to cook it, plus a variation or two if you want to get fancy. It offers buying and storing guides for most ingredient tips, illustrations of techniques, basic ingredient or dish information ("The Basics of Cakes" or "The Basics of Pressure Cookers") and a very large glossary of terms. And the writing style is personable. Whether you have just figured out how to use the stove or have deeply held opinions about Top Chef contestants, this cookbook is a must-own.

The recipe: "Pan-seared Steak in Red Wine Sauce (or Steak au Poivre)" page 428 in the first, 1998 edition.

Cooking School Cookbook

The cookbook: As mentioned in previous columns, I am a huge fan of America's Test Kitchen — its cookbooks, its magazines, its websites and its PBS show. It patiently and diligently tests every angle of everything to find you the best butter to use, the best cooking time for that pie, the best saute pan. Here, it doesn't just provide you with recipes, but it teaches you how to cook. Recipes start off with discussion about what's happening in the recipe, what each ingredient is there for and why you are cooking something in a certain way or mixing it in after cooling. Recipes also get a rundown of prep time, difficulty, tools needed, ingredients and a "What Can Go Wrong" page that explains common mistakes and how to avoid them. And then you get a step-by-step photo walk-through of exactly how to make the dish. There is no "Is this how this is supposed to look?" — even in the middle of a recipe, you know.

The recipe: "Pepper-Crusted Filets Mignons" on page 244.

The result: I picked steak because cooking an expensive steak correctly has always seemed fraught with potential disaster. With filet mignon, the trick is to keep the meat's excellent texture while amping up the beefy flavors. I made the *Cooking School* recipe first and it turned out great — flavorful meat, cooked just a few notches short of perfection. The Bittman steak turned out even better — thanks in large part to what I learned during the first steak. Bittman's recipe is solid, but *Cooking School* taught me the nitty gritty — the temperatures I was looking for and how to accurately test for it and about the time it should take to get to my desired doneness. While the Bittman steak tasted better, I found myself filling in some of the gaps in Bittman's instructions with what I learned from *Cooking School*.

The winner

COOKING SCHOOL COOKBOOK

It's tough, picking between two "best" things. If "seldom" is a good descriptor of how frequently you cook, I would strongly recommend the Bittman book. It is a tried-and-true source for everything you'll ever need to do in the kitchen. But if you want to be a better cook, if you dream of mastering ingredients and making all your dishes better and more refined, it's time to enroll in the *Cooking School Cookbook*.

Weekly Dish

Continued from page 42

ly tastings of four Italian wines with on Wednesdays from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Tastings will be conducted by Joe Comforti, Tuscan Brands wine director. Tastings cost $20.

• **Share the love:** Sizzle Bistro (1 Highlander Way, Manchester, 232-3344, sizzlebistro.com) has partnered with New Horizons for New Hampshire for a Valentine's Day fundraiser. Fifteen percent of food sales from 5 p.m. to close will be donated to New Horizons on Friday, Feb. 14. The fundraiser will also include DJ entertainment and a 50/50 raffle. Guests are also encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to dinner to be donated to New Horizons' food pantry.

• **Chocolate meets wine and cheese:** WineNot Boutique (170 Main St., Nashua, 204-5569, winenotboutique.com) and the Nashua Telegraph have announced the first Chocolate, Wine & Cheese Festival to be held on Friday, March 21, from 6 to 8:30 p.m. at Sky Meadow Country Club in Nashua. The festival will include samples of gourmet cheeses, chocolates and wine as well as a pairing seminar with sommelier Svetlana Yanushkevich. The new festival program benefits Newspapers in Education, a program that gives students access to their local newspaper with curriculum materials to supplement news media. Currently, vendors include Grape Time Winery, Saphouse Meadery, Seacrest Cheese, Taza Chocolates and TCHO Chocolates. Tickets cost $25, and $5 for designated driver tickets. Visit nashuatelegraph.com.

Manchester, 624-2022, fratellos.com) will have prix-fixe Valentine's Day specials all weekend long during regular hours.

• **GRANITE RESTAURANT AND BAR** (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com) is serving a three-course prix-fixe menu (includes choices like baked stuffed lobster for two or pan roasted loin of cod as entrées and buttermilk fried oysters or cheese and charcuterie for two as appetizers) Thursday through Saturday at $45 per person.

• **HANOVER STREET CHOPHOUSE** (149 Hanover St., Manchester, 644-2467, hanoverstreetchophouse.com) is booked for Valentine's Day in the dining room but will also host a five-course dinner, $185, at the bar, "first come, first served." There will also be Valentine's Day weekend specials on Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

• **HAROLD SQUARE** (266 Rockingham Road, Londonderry, 432-7144, harold-square.com) will be serving a special menu Friday and Saturday, from 4 p.m. to close.

• **LABELLE WINERY** (345 State Route 101, Amherst, 672-9898, labellewinerynh.com) has a two-course surf and turf dinner with wine special on Valentine's











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FOOD
PERISHABLES
Tasty food from fresh ingredients

Jalapeños



People. You have to make the dish I just made. It was super easy and, thanks to some spicy jalapeños, warmed my insides right up! Meals these days are all about what will warm up my house and my family, and I was so happy to cook with fresh jalapeños this week.

Jalapeños always remind me of my father. He *loves* these spicy peppers and will eat them even though they give him heartburn! My mom gives him a hard time for loving these peppers that just don't love him back.

These chili peppers, which are mostly found green but ripen fully to red, are a kind of chili pepper. While they're rather small, they pack a pretty nutritious punch. At only 4 calories per serving, they have a gram of protein and a healthy dose of vitamin C. While they are pretty spicy peppers, they calm down when cooked and deseeded. I used them atop a taco casserole that was freaking awesome. Check out my recipe below! — *Allison Willson Dudas*

Taco Casserole

1 jar salsa (12 ounces)
2 cans black beans, drained and rinsed
2 chicken breasts, cooked and shredded
1 yellow onion, chopped
1 can green chilies
1 teaspoon Adobo seasoning
1 tablespoon chili pepper
1 can diced tomatoes, fire roasted (I used Muir Glen)
2 cups shredded cheddar cheese
1 can sliced black olives
2 fresh jalapeño peppers, sliced
Avocado slices
Sour cream (serving suggestion)
Whole-wheat tortillas

Preheat oven to 350 degrees.

Layer your ingredients in your casserole dish, starting with the salsa. After you've spread out a decent layer of salsa, pour both cans of beans over top.

In a large bowl, combine shredded chicken with onion, chilies and spices. Pour chicken mixture over top of beans, spreading out.

Pour the can of tomatoes over the chicken and then sprinkle cheese over top. Finish the casserole off by spreading jalapeño and black olive slices over top.

Bake for 30 minutes, until cheese is melted and browned. Serve with avocado and sour cream as a casserole or wrap the goodness in tortillas.

Day at 6:30 p.m., followed by coffee, dessert and tango dance lessons by instructor Allesandra Geffner-Smith.

• **MARTHA'S EXCHANGE** (185 Main St., Nashua, 883-8781, marthas-exchange.com) will be serving a three-course dinner for two (includes choice of salad, entrée with chocolate box dessert) with a choice of a bottle of red or white wine. Cost $75 per couple. Dinner starts at 4 p.m. Reservations recommended.

• **MINT BISTRO** (1105 Elm St., Manchester, 625-6468, mintbistronh.com) will be serving a special Valentine's Day menu with its full dinner menu Wednesday through Sunday during regular dinner hours. Reservations strongly recommended.

• **MT'S LOCAL KITCHEN & WINE BAR** (212 Main St., Nashua, 595-9334, mtslocal.com) is taking reservations for any size party for Thursday through Saturday with a special menu (includes prosecco sparkling wine for two, salads, entrées and dessert, a chocolate and goat cheese crêpe with raspberries and raspberry coulis).

• **NAPA EAST** (12 Murphy Drive, Nashua, 595-9463, napaeast.com) will be having two to three Valentine's Day specials on Feb. 14 in addition to regular menu offerings.

• **O STEAKS AND SEAFOOD** (11 S. Main St., Concord, 856-7925) will be having regular menu offerings plus Valentine's Day specials on Feb. 14.

• **RED BLAZER** (72 Manchester St., Concord, 224-4101, theredblazer.com) will be having an extra-special pre-Valentine's Day menu from Monday, Feb. 10, through Thursday, Feb. 13. The prix-fixe, four-course menu will include choices of appetizers, salad and entrée (fixed price, $49.99 for two). Dessert is a sampling of chocolate-covered strawberries, chocolate praline mousse and cherry cheesecake. There will also be specials on Valentine's Day.

• **REPUBLIC** (1069 Elm St., Manchester, 666-3723, republiccafe.com) will have extra specials on Valentine's Day during regular hours.

• **SPEAKER'S CORNER RESTAURANT** (2 Somerset Parkway, Nashua, 595-4155, speakerscornerbistro.com) will have a completely separate menu on Valentine's Day (six starters, salads, soups, six entrées, all of which end with a chocolate lovers dessert sampler). On Saturday night there will be a prix-fixe menu.

• **SURF** (207 Main St., Nashua, 595-9293, surfseafood.com) is accepting reservations for Valentine's Day with a special three-course menu.

• **SUNNY'S TABLE** (11 Depot St., Concord, 225-8181, sunnystable.com) has a romantic three-course prix-fixe menu that ranges in price, $45 to $65, on Valentine's Day during regular hours.

• **TEK NIQUE** (170 Route 101, Bedford, 488-5629, restaurant-teknique.com) has Valentine's Day specials all week long, from Monday, Feb. 10, through Sunday, Feb. 16, starting at 4 p.m. It includes a four-course dinner with two to four choices per course, in addition to regular menu options.

• **UNUMS** (47 E. Pearl St.,

FOOD

FROM THE PANTRY

Ideas from off the shelf

Party snacks



This week, my husband and I were making preparations to go away for a long weekend. About a dozen friends from college were meeting us in Connecticut, and we planned to rent a three-bedroom cabin for our time there. Now as (relatively) recent college grads, none of us have a ton of money to spend on weekend getaways, or the baggage that comes with them, like travel expenses and meals out. So when we plan for long weekends, we try to plan our snacks and meals as well.

I was in charge of snack foods for the weekend, and got to make fun dips and munchies to tide everyone over in between meals. I'm always happy when I get to whip together simple, fun snack foods — they're easier on my budget and my time.

I decided I'd try two different types of snacks, one sweet and one savory. The sweet one was a chocolate chip cheesecake dip, which could double as dessert in a pinch. The other was a ranch-flavored snack mix that's so simple and so addicting it's really not fair to other snack foods.

The cheesecake dip was a big hit with everyone's sweet tooth, and one batch of it was enough to keep everyone happy — no one over-indulged, which is easy to do with this dip.

The ranch snack mix, however, was made several times over the weekend, as we ran out more than once.

What I liked most about preparing these vastly different snacks was that they appeal to different taste buds, but are simple and inexpensive enough to make at the same time to satisfy everyone's late-night cravings. Plus, I can see where slight variations on either the dip or the snack mix would create incredibly different but equally delicious options.

The cheesecake dip is simple: simply blend together cream cheese, powdered sugar, butter, brown sugar and vanilla, mix in some chocolate chips and refrigerate until ready to serve. I'm thinking that next time I'll add some chopped up strawberries, or maybe add peanut butter chips as well for a peanut butter-chocolate combination with minimal effort. Most of the ingredients are things you likely have in your pantry regularly. If not, they're almost all small and compact enough to buy and pack, and prepare on-site wherever your getaway or party takes place.

The ranch snack mix is also so simple it's slightly comedic how delicious the end product turns out. My mom has been making this for parties for years, but I have no idea (nor does she) where the recipe originated.

Pick your favorite bite-size crackers and pretzels of choice; I tend to lean toward Goldfish, Cheez-Itz, miniature stick pretzels and oyster crackers. Pick up a bottle of popcorn oil in the popcorn aisle of your grocery store, along with a packet of dry ranch mix. Mix all of the ingredients together in a bowl, cover with plastic wrap and let sit until the popcorn oil is absorbed. This won't take more than 30 minutes, and you'll be rewarded with a simple, savory snack mix. -- *Lauren Mifsud*

Chocolate Chip Cheesecake Dip

Recipe Courtesy: Slice & Dice

Ingredients:

8 ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup unsalted butter, softened
3/4 cup powdered sugar
2 tablespoons brown sugar
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup miniature chocolate chips
Graham cracker sticks or teddy grahams

Directions:

In a small bowl, beat together cream cheese and butter until smooth. Add sugars and vanilla. Stir in chocolate chips. Refrigerate until ready to eat. Serve with graham cracker sticks or teddy grahams.

Ranch Snack Mix

Ingredients:

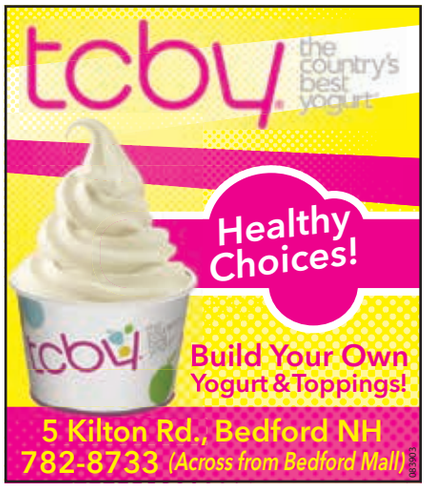
1 package cheddar Goldfish
1 package miniature stick pretzels
1 box Cheez Itz
1 package oyster crackers
1 bottle popcorn oil
1 package dry ranch mix

Directions:

In a large bowl, mix ¾ of each package of dried goods, plus about ¾ of the bottle of popcorn oil. Add the ranch mix and toss to coat. Cover with plastic wrap and let sit, about 30 minutes, or until popcorn oil is absorbed.

Nashua, 821-6500, unums.com) will have a Valentine's Day menu that includes many choices of appetizers, salads and entrées like prime rib, roast duck breast and seabass. Dessert includes chocolate cake roll, royal spumoni wedge or berry sorbet.

• **UNWINE'D** (865 Second St., Manchester, 625-9463, unwined.net) entrée specials (three-course prixe-fixe dinner with salad, entrée and chocolate-covered strawberries for dessert) in addition to regular menu offerings. Hours this weekend are Friday from 4:30 to 11 p.m.;











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FOOD

JUST DESSERTS
Recipes for the sweet tooth

Cheddar cheese



This country sure does love its cheese. We crumble it on salads, melt it over pasta, and grill it between slices of bread. Not content to let it merely sit atop our pizzas, we had to stuff it in the crusts as well.

So I figured that, out of respect for the national passion for cheese, I should try out a sweet baked good that incorporated some of the stuff. We're not talking about creamy and rich mascarpone or ricotta, cheeses that work their way fairly regularly into dessert. We're talking about cheddar.

Cheddar — as you most likely know — has a crumbly texture and sharp, nutty flavor that strengthens as the cheese ages, characteristics that make it an unlikely ingredient for a sweet treat. But, with typical Yankee ingenuity, New Englanders long ago discovered that a slice of cheddar alongside a piece of apple pie enhances both foods. It is this fruit-and-cheese combo that these lightly sweet, addictively delicious scones feature.

The cheddar here is subtle; upon first bite you mightn't even identify a noticeable cheese flavor in the scone. Rather, the cheddar adds a depth of flavor that makes the buttery dough and sweet apples really pop.

The technique of pre-baking the apples may seem fussy, but is vital to the near-perfection of these scones. The process concentrates the flavor of the fruit and prevents it from forming mushy pockets in the final product. While the apples bake, you can grate the cheese, cut the butter, and combine the dry ingredients, making the final assembly remarkably quick and simple.

The resulting scones are a great, if somewhat unusual, dessert, or a perfect accompaniment to afternoon tea. Enjoy.

— *Sarah Shemkus*

Apple Cheddar Scones

From food blog Smitten Kitchen

2 firm tart apples
1½ cups flour plus more for counter
¼ cup sugar plus 1 tablespoon for sprinkling
½ tablespoon baking powder
½ teaspoon salt plus additional for egg wash
6 tablespoons unsalted butter, chilled and cut into 1/2-inch cubes
½ cup sharp cheddar, shredded (about 2¼ ounces)
¼ cup heavy cream
2 large eggs

Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
Peel and core apples, then chop each into 16 chunks. Spread apples on parchment-covered baking sheet and bake for about 20 minutes, until chunks are slightly softened and dry to the touch and turning somewhat brown around the edges. Remove from oven and allow to cool completely.
Sift flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar together into a medium mixing bowl. In the bowl of a stand mixer, place butter, cooled apple chunks, cheese, cream, and one egg. Sprinkle flour mixture over top and mix everything together at low speed, just until dough comes together.
Turn dough out onto well-floured counter or pastry board. Shape dough into a circle approximately 6 inches in diameter. Cut dough into six wedges and transfer to greased or parchment-lined baking sheet. Beat remaining egg and pinch of salt in a small bowl and brush each scone with egg wash. Sprinkle remaining tablespoon of sugar over scones. Bake for 27 to 30 minutes, until scones are golden brown. Transfer to wire racks to cool for at least 10 minutes. Best served very fresh.

Saturday from 5 to 11 p.m.; and Sunday from 5 to 9 p.m.

• **VILLA BANCA** (194 Main St., Nashua, 598-0500, villabanca.com) will be having specials on Valentine's Day.

• **THE YARD** (1211 S. Mammoth Road, Manchester, 623-3545, theyardrestaurant.com) has an entire separate menu for Valentine's Day (11 entrée specials, including crab-stuffed haddock, homemade meatloaf, roasted chicken breast, come with tossed salad and bread).

• **ZORVINO VINEYARDS** (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com) is offering a five-course dinner with sparkling wine on Valentine's Day. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost $65.

Festivals/fairs

• **FIRE AND ICE FEST** Sat., Feb. 15, and Sun., Feb. 16, at 6 p.m. at Portsmouth Gas Light Co. (64 Market St., Portsmouth) with ice bars, fire pits, ice luges, wood fire grilled food and ice sculptures. Beverages from Southern Wine and Spirits and New Hampshire Distributors. See portsmouthchamber.org.

• **STARTUP NIGHT** at Leaven Beer and Bread House (44 Market St., Somersworth, 692-0157, leavennh.com) on Thursdays, Feb. 20, March 20 and April 17. Audience members participate in entrepreneurial game show to pitch ideas and collaborate.

• **INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL** Fri., Feb. 21, at Colby-Sawyer College (541 Main St., New London, 526-3000, colby-sawyer.edu) at Wheeler Hall in Ware Student Center from 5 to 8 p.m. Admission is free, and features cuisine, art and traditions from 31 countries.

Cost comparisons

The factors behind wines' price tags

By Stefanie Phillips
food@hippopress.com

If you've ever purchased wine, you know that wine pricing can be difficult to figure out. Some bottles are more expensive than others, but why?

While some reasons are obvious, like an older vintage or a rare grape, others are less so. I have asked myself this question several times, so I decided to do some research. It turns out there are several reasons.

According to the blog Priceonomics, Chateau Lafite Rothschild Bordeaux is arguably the world's greatest wine. The British Prime Minister and King Louis XV drank it regularly in the 17th century. When Napoleon ordered that French Bordeaux be classified in 1855, Lafite Rothschild was given a top ranking spot, where it is still ranked today.

Reportedly, a 1787 bottle of Lafite Rothschild Bordeaux supposedly owned by Thomas Jefferson sold for $156,000 at an auction in 1985. This made it the most expensive bottle of wine ever sold. When Lafite Rothchild's latest Bordeaux was released, it sold for 420 euros a bottle. Older bottles still go for more than $1,000.

But if you tasted a bottle of wine that went for more than $1,000, would you be able to tell the difference if it was compared with a $20 bottle of wine? According to Priceonomics, wine experts and amateurs alike have a hard time differentiating between fine wines and cheaper wines. If this is the case, then why do some bottles sell for such a high price while others do not?

One reason is production. One proprietor of expensive French Burgundy said it's all about the soil. In fertile soil, grapes can fill with water, which can dilute their flavor, while grapes grown on rocky or more treacherous land are usually more flavorful. The characteristics in the soil also determine the way the grapes taste.

Many of you have probably heard of "Two Buck Chuck," first sold at Trader Joe's for $1.99. How could this wine be sold so cheaply? Priceonomics says it's because the producer, Bronco Wine Company, used grapes from the highly fertile area of California's Central Valley. The grapes grown there aren't overly flavorful, but the volume is high.

Basically, this wine is mass-produced, as the company also buys surplus wine from other California vineyards and blends it all together.

The company turned out 18 million cases of wine in one year — hence the low price tag. Many joke that you can buy a bottle of water and a bottle of wine for the same price.

On the other end of the spectrum is the Lafite winery, where viniculture is treated as an art. Their vineyards produce a lot fewer grapes, but the result is more flavorful due to the presence of gravel, sand and limestone in the French soil. Wooden barrels are made on site to age the wine. The best grapes can be labeled "premier cru" or first-growth Bordeaux, which sell for a high price.

The other part of the wine business involves negociants, or wine merchants who purchase wine to bottle and sell under their own labels. They buy surplus wine from vineyards all over the world. Some smaller wineries reluctantly rely on negociants, while others appreciate not having to handle the sales themselves.

These are just two examples that illustrate the difference in wine pricing. Like anything else we purchase, one is about mass production with a cheap price, while the other is smaller production and attention to detail for more expense. There are, of course, other factors, but these are the most basic.

According to Troy Carter of Motorcycle Wineries, many Americans spend less on wine because it is what is available. Only 12 percent of Americans spend more than $30 on a bottle of wine weekly or monthly.

Yellow Tail, available for less than $15 a bottle, is the No. 1 import in America. Troy estimated that 90 percent of wine, based on volume, is less than $10 a bottle. When wine is available at a low price, many people base their purchases on that.

Of course, wine reviews can help raise a wine's price as well. Some people will spend more if they know a wine received a higher rating from a wine critic of 90 out of 100 points.

Vintages, number of years aged, rarity — all of these change a wine's price as well.

Like many consumers, I struggle with price because there are a lot of wines out there I enjoy, and they are less than $15 or $20 a bottle. I have tasted more expensive wines and have a hard time telling the difference.

Alternatively, I really enjoy some wines made right here in New Hampshire, and I can justify spending a couple dollars more because I feel more closely connected with the winemakers and am familiar with the vineyards where the grapes are grown.









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DRINK

RED, WHITE &GREEN

Bottles for the budget-conscious wine-lover





Maybe you can't take that Valentine's Day jaunt to warmer climes, but you can get a little ray of summer by taking a break from big heavy reds and enjoying a light glass of chardonnay this weekend.

Yes, chardonnay.

Some people still look askance at this wine that can, on occasion, have the kind of big oaky flavor that makes people think of a vanilla candle. But here are two examples of chards with more subtlety.

The **2011 Ryan Patrick Vineyards Naked Chardonnay** from Colombia Valley (regularly priced $12.99) is, as one of us said, a chardonnay that is "the opposite of chardonnay." This light gold colored wine has a green, lemony nose that made us think of fresh cut grass. The flavor almost reminded us of a pinot grigio but with a more appealing finish than that wine usually has, rounder and a little fuller while still being crisp and clean.

The **2011 Bueña Vista Viniculteral Society Chardonnay** from Sonoma (regularly priced $18.99) is a little more typical of chardonnays but still doesn't have the big, overwhelming flavor that puts some wine-drinkers off the grape. We detected aromas of pear, elderflower and oak. Though this light gold wine had some butteriness and vanilla on the nose, these weren't stand-out components of the wine's flavors. Instead, we got hints of lemon and a very mild nuttiness. While there was a full mouthfeel, the wine was dry, with almost no sweetness.

Both of these chards were pleasant little bursts of lightness during this big-red season.

Each week in "Red, White & Green," the wine-lovers taste red and white wines that sell for not too much of the green, less than $20. The goal? To find a good bottle without breaking the bank. Unless otherwise noted, the prices listed are what you'll find the bottles selling for at the New Hampshire Wine & Liquor Outlet.

Drink

Beer/wine/liquor tastings

• **VALENTINE'S DAY** tasting with wine and chocolate on Fri., Feb. 14, at 4 p.m. at Cornucopia Wine & Cheese Market, 4 Front St., Exeter, 772-4447, cwinecheese.com.

• **SAM ADAMS** tasting on Wed., Feb. 19, from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Bert's Better Beers, 1100 Hooksett Road, Hooksett, 413-5992, bertsbetterbeers.com.

• **WHITE BIRCH** tasting on Thurs., Feb. 20, from 4 to 7 p.m. at Lazy Dog Beer Shoppe, 27 Buttrick Road, Londonderry, 434-2500, lazydogbeer.com.

• **SHIPYARD** tasting on Thurs., Feb. 20, from 5 to 7 p.m. at The Beer Store, 433 Amherst St., Nashua, 889-2242, thebeerstorenh.com.

Beer/wine dinners

• **VALENTINE'S DINNER** at Zorvino Vineyards (226 Main St., Sandown, 887-8463, zorvino.com) on Fri., Feb. 14. Five-course menu with sparkling wine. Cocktail hour starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost $65.

• **J LOHR WINE DINNER** Wed., Feb. 26, at The Old Salt at Lamie's Inn (490 Lafayette Road, Hampton, 926-8322, oldsaltnh.com). Reception at 6 p.m., four-course dinner with wine pairings starts at 6:30 p.m. Tickets cost $60, reservations required.

• **4/4/4 BREWERS DINNER** Wed., Feb. 26, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Stages at One Washington (1 Washington St., Dover), features four chefs, four courses, and four beer pairings from White Birch Brewing. Call 842-4077.

• **CATCH WINE DINNER** Thurs., Feb. 27, at Granite Restaurant and Bar at The Centennial Hotel (96 Pleasant St., Concord, 227-9000, graniterestaurant.com). Five-course dinner with wine pairings to benefit CATCH Neighborhood housing. Tickets cost $65, reservations required.

Beer/wine festivals and special events

• **SEACOAST WINTER BEER FESTIVAL** Sat., Feb. 22, at Portsmouth Gaslight Company (64 Market St., Portsmouth). VIP Session runs 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. (tickets cost $60); Session 1 runs from noon to 3 p.m. and Session 2 runs from 4 to 7 p.m. Tickets cost $40. See seacoastwinterbrewfest.com.

• **PORTSMOUTH BEER WEEK** Sat., Feb. 22, through Mon., March 3, at participating seacoast breweries. See nhbeer.org.

• **WINTER WINE FESTIVAL** Through Sun., Feb. 16, at Wentworth by the Sea (588 Wentworth Road, New Castle, 422-7322, winterwinefestival.com), with wine dinners, Sunday brunches, flights and other special events throughout the festival. See winterwinefestival.com for a full schedule of events.

• **FIRE AND ICE OPENING NIGHT** at The Port Inn (505 Route 1 Bypass, Portsmouth, 436-4378) on Thurs., Feb. 13, features ice sculptures, fire pit, Fire and Ice cocktails with New Amsterdam vodka and appetizers. See portsmouthchamber.org.

• **ROMANCING THE TAVERN** Wine and chocolate pairings at the Folsom Tavern (164 Water St., Exeter, 772-2622, independencemuseum.org) on Thurs., Feb. 13, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., led by Kathleen Campbell from Cornucopia Wine & Cheese Market. Also includes colonial Valentine's Day customs and era love letters. Cost $18 for non-members.

• **THE ROMANCE OF WINE** Wine tasting on Fri., Feb. 14, at 6 p.m. Tasting and hors d'oeuvres at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com). Tickets cost $30 per couple.

• **STOUTS 'N SNACKS** Thur., Feb. 27, at 6 p.m., New Vanilla Stout and Black Satin Stout brewing at IncrediBREW (112 Daniel Webster Hwy., Nashua, 891-2477, incredibrew.com) with recipes that integrate beer (like beer caramels made with chocolate stout). Cost $35 for variety case, bottles included (or $30 without bottles).

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MUSIC, BOOKS, GAMES, COMICS, MOVIES, DVDS, TV AND MORE

Drivin' n' Cryin', *Songs for the Turntable* (Blank Records/Redeye)



The Kevin Kinney-led Atlanta-based foursome, whose genealogy has a tine leading to Black Crowes, has been in a strange place for a while. This is the final EP of a four-EP contract with Blank, and between writing four or five songs at a pop, Kinney has busied himself with *Cherlene*, a "Cheryl/Carol"-centric album of mostly original tunes tied in with the FX animated show *Archer* (Kenny Loggins makes an appearance on that record, presumably duetting with, not choking, Carol/Cheryl/Cherlene). If you think you're smelling the fog of B-list L.A. ennui, you're not wrong; D&C has been on a couple of major labels in their 30-year oeuvre, and barely seem to care at this point. It's still Southern rock/pop with jokes, sort of like how Electric Six are in relation to Kiss, but I didn't slap my knee much. The Tom Petty-vs-REM nicking in "Strangers" is room-temperature, and there are a couple of tunes that just seem like obligato mashups of monstrously popular tunes, for instance "Roll Away the Song," a half-cocked thing combining the "Sweet Home Alabama" riff with the slide guitar from Zep's "Ramble On." I wasn't sure if I was supposed to groove to this stuff or simply ponder its Elks-club-radio zen, is the problem. **C** — *Eric W. Saeger*



Marissa Nadler, *July* (Sacred Bones Records)

It's a melting-pot world, lately with lots of black metal in the pot. Until now, the things that hybridized into this Boston glum-folkie included old PJ Harvey records, '90s good-girl-folk and mellow goth. But Nadler's latest thing involves hooking up her finger-plucked acoustic guitar and Laura Marling-like voice (imagine your typical bug-eyed dormmate with a few Florence Welch-like power-moves) with the blissed-out extreme-metal inclinations of Southern Lord fixture Randall Dunn (SunnO))); Wolves in the Throne Room). Naturally, since the randomness of all this is so over-the-top, the obvious move is to kick off the record with a ghostly, angelic, arguably upbeat tune ("Drive," and there's even some slide guitar in there in case you still didn't feel safe). Ominous, surfy, fatalistic bliss slowly begins creeping in with "1923," the second track, and from there on, it's a clinic on Nadler's faraway, detached weirdness, conjuring Kate Havnevik dipped in Deafheaven sauce, the only minor deviation coming at the Smoke Fairies-like "Anyone Else." **B** — *Eric W. Saeger*

PLAYLIST

A seriously abridged compendium of recent and future CD releases

• Look out, it's crazy emails tangent week! I was about to go through the weekly ritual of finding another batch of unlistenable new albums to talk about in this space, but then, by accident, I looked at, I mean actually looked at and read, some of the recent PR email that's come into my hopelessly grassed emailbox. For the record (no pun intended whatsoever), there are several albums coming out next week, including **Shocking Pinks**' *Guilt Mirrors*, **The Jezebels**' *The Brink* and **We Are the In Crowd** with *Weird Kids*. OK, let's drop the perfunctory and get PR-funky!

• One good piece of news: I've been promised the next **Elbow** album to review. I expect this to be the greatest alt-rock album since *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*, but nothing surprises me anymore, so it could be bad, who knows.

• The latest sinister bit of music-related corporate synergy is the agreement between Lakeshore Records and Dysonics, who have made 11 songs from the ***I, Frankenstein*** **soundtrack** free for downloading into your iPhone, by visiting http://bit.ly/IFrankApp. Mind you, this free musical nonsense is classical; the sell here is that these silly goth-monster opera-chorus songs come to your earbuds with the power of 5.1 Surround Sound, so it's like sitting through this non-Mary Shelley-associated train-wreck without having to see any of the fake blue goop while still getting your ears blown out even as you find yourself getting hungrier for popcorn, thanks to the subliminal messages that are sure to be hidden in this cynical mall-goth mind-control experiment. If you honestly have nothing better to do than download this stuff and critique it to your dog, you really need to shut off all your electronic "communication" devices for five seconds and do some volunteering in the community.

• I'm not sure why Vibe magazine just cold added me to their BCC list without ever asking if I wanted to read their stupid *Entertainment Tonight*-style brown-nose reports on artistes whose fame would never have happened without the help of PR people hiring out entire Indonesian click-farms, but here it is, all of a sudden, a bunch of stupid stories about oversexed/closeted/Autotuned ego-bots from the Empire. Look, it's the **Biebs**, who got arrested trying to drunk-race his yellow Lambo against **Khalil**'s red Lambo. Biebs had a "hot chick" with him, in case Kathy Griffin showed up looking for irrefutable evidence, and the chick, who's a model of some sort, looks sort of like RuPaul. This message was brought to you by the aliens who can't wait to take over this planet when you last few holdouts finally throw up your hands and give up. P.S.: half the Vibe images don't render in email.

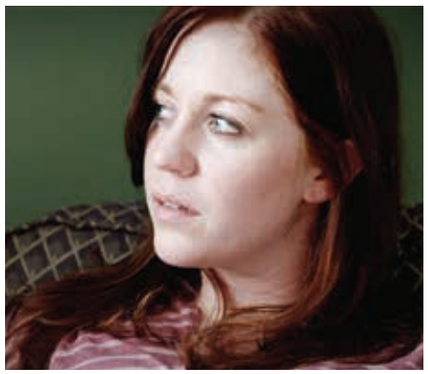
• Apparently the irony of the viral video featuring a bunch of he-men oil-riggers lip-synching to the song "Africa" has been lost on the band **Toto**, as they are actually working on a new album, or at least threatening to. This is the first time in history one could actually say "Everything happens for a reason, except this" and be correct. — *Eric W. Saeger*



Feeling *Blessid*

Derry director takes on Massachusetts-based indie

By Kelly Sennott
ksennott@hippopress.com



Rachel Kerbs plays Sarah in *Blessid*. Courtesy photo.

Derry director Rob Fitz is no stranger to the film world.

He's been in the business for 17 years and worked as a makeup artist for big-name productions like *American Hustle*, *Labor Day*, *The Fighter* and *Ted*. In 2010, he directed a film called *God of Vampires*, a low-budget horror that's now being released internationally. Along with these projects — now 47 total — he's made countless connections and well-established friends in the industry.

And so Massachusetts newbie screenwriter/producer Bob Heske was quite happy when Fitz agreed to direct Heske's film, *Blessid*, a indie drama about a depressed pregnant woman with a cursed past who forms a bond with an immortal man. The small cast and crew spent about two weeks filming *Blessid* in Shrewsbury, Mass., last fall, and the crew is currently in post-production with the final edits.

"It's interesting, because when you're a makeup artist in a film, you're really just kind of this gear in the machine. … Whereas if I'm not there as the director, the production will fall apart. Now, all of a sudden, you're steering the ship. It's a very different dynamic," Fitz said. "But it's good to have worked on so many movies. You have the perspective of the crew member, too."

> "This theme spoke to me, because I've know a lot of people who have been in despair."
>
> ROB FITZ

Blessid is a film Fitz jokingly said he'd "never rent" — he usually leans to action and horror flicks — yet there was something about the script he couldn't put down.

"I'm an effects guy. I love horror movies, but this is a drama. This has supernatural elements, but normally, it's not my kind of thing," Fitz said. "But at a certain point, when the characters reveal themselves to what they really are, then it gets interesting."

The film follows a woman named Sarah Duncliffe (played by Rachel Kerbs) who is battling suicidal thoughts and disturbing hallucinations of her deceased sister who, years ago, fell victim to a childhood accident. Sarah lives a very unhappy life; her ex-boyfriend is stalking her and she's stuck in an empty, banal marriage. Her life takes a turn, though, when she meets her new neighbor who harbors a secret: he's immortal.

"The film is about this woman who needs to find forgiveness in herself to continue to live her life. … This theme spoke to me, because I've known a lot of people who have been in despair," Fitz said.

Blessid might never had happened, Heske said, were it not for Fitz's connections, and felt thankful Fitz saw something in this script he'd felt so passionate for. One of those connections led to Kerbs.

"I love the character of Sarah," Kerbs said in an email. "She was a challenge that intrigued me right off the bat."

Heske had written a few other short- and feature-length scripts, but he was tired of waiting to be discovered and decided to take the film into his own hands last year. A kickstarter campaign, some donations and a good portion of Heske's own money went into the making of *Blessid*.

It's terrifying, Heske said, producing a film with your own money, but at 50, he felt the time ticking. At the writing of the film, his mother was about to pass away, and he thought to himself, 'This could be me 20 years from now.'

"Life is full of regrets if you don't do something. So I went out and made a movie," Heske said. "It's intimidating, like jumping out of a plane, but if you have a good parachute, if you surround yourself with good people, it'll give you a soft landing."

When the crew is through with editing, there will be a public screening in Shrewsbury come summertime. Until then, the crew will be working to get *Blessid* into the film festival circuit.

Learn more about Blessid

Visit blessedthemovie.com, Facebook.com/blessidthemovie or follow BlessidTheMovie on Twitter.

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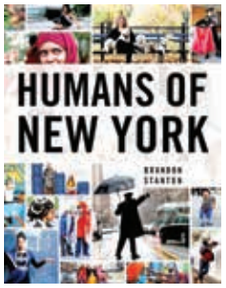
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TOP 10 Travel

For the week of Feb. 10
(Barnesandnoble.com)



1 ***Humans of New York***
By Brandon Stanton
Hardcover, October 2013

2 ***Rick Steves' Paris 2014***
By Rick Steves, Steve Smith, Gene Openshaw
Paperback, October 2013

3 ***Into the Wild***
By Jon Krakauer
Paperback, February 1997

4 ***Hawaii, The Big Island Revealed: The Ultimate Guidebook***
By Andrew Doughty
Paperback, December 2013

5 ***Birnbaum's Walt Disney World 2014***
By Birnbaum Travel Guides
Paperback, September 2013

6 ***A Fine Romance: Falling in Love with the English Countryside***
By Susan Branch
Hardcover, August 2013

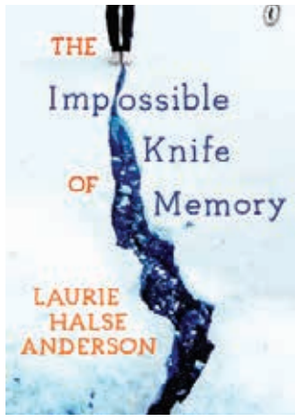
7 ***2014 New York City Restaurants***
By Zagat Survey (Compiler)
Paperback, October 2013

8 ***Lonely Planet 1000 Ultimate Experiences***
By Lonely Planet
Paperback, November 2009

9 ***Lake View, Illinois (Images of America Series)***
By Matthew Nickerson, Foreword by Norman J. Dinkel Jr. (Foreword by)
Paperback, January 2014

10 ***The New York Times 36 Hours: 150 Weekends in the USA & Canada***
By Barbara Ireland
Hardcover, November 2011

***The Impossible Knife of Memory*, by Laurie Halse Anderson (Viking, 391 pages)**



The No. 1 problem with Laurie Halse Anderson's new book is the type. It's large, and there's too much space between the lines, which is publishing code for "if you're older than 17, you're too old for this book."

True, the bulk of Anderson's work dwells in the fiction category called YA, young adult, which, perplexingly, really means "teen." But her latest, *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, is a terrific read for old adults, too, particularly those acquainted with the book's dark themes, addiction and post-traumatic stress syndrome. In fact, at times, the book seems more appropriate for a mature audience, and the reader wonders why it wasn't marketed as such.

Hayley Kincain is the new girl in school, a troublemaker who doesn't fit in. We meet her in detention, where she is supposed to be writing "I will not be disrespectful to Mr. Diaz" 500 times, but instead is writing "Correcting a teacher's mistake is not a sign of disrespect." Hayley's got an attitude, having returned to high school as a senior after five years of traveling with her trucker-father Andy, a veteran suffering from PTSD. (Her mother is dead.)

Returning to the home that had been in Andy's family for three generations was supposed to provide some peace and stability for father and daughter. But Andy is steadily unraveling, and increasingly, Hayley is the caregiver in the family. As such, she cares little for her grades, her future, or the "zombies" who surround her. They and their perfect teeth don't have to walk four miles home after missing the bus. Nor do they have to wonder if the parent at home will be functioning, or if he will be incoherent or drunk, or both and angrily waving a splitting maul at their friends.

This is Hayley's reality, living with a dad who moves too easily between the past and the present. When the past prevails, "All he heard were exploding IEDs and incoming mortar rounds; all he saw were body fragments, like an unattached leg still wearing its boot, and shards of shiny bones, sharp as spears. All he tasted was blood." And he's getting worse.

Meanwhile, a woman from the past is trying to re-enter their lives. Andy and Trish had never married, but she'd cared for Hayley for six years, and had custody of her while Andy was overseas. Hayley hates Trish, an alcoholic who'd vanished without explanation when Hayley was 12. She is certain that Trish's return would further harm her father, "like giving him a cool, sweet glass of antifreeze to drink," easy at first, but ultimately fatal.

Likewise, Hayley is also resisting the overtures of a boy, a star swimmer ("the abs, omg," her conduit friend texts) sympathetic to the home situation and determined to help. Finn Ramos gives Hayley rides, makes her pancakes and is undeterred by the violence of her drunken father. (Another appeal: He offers Hayley real maple syrup in a leaf-shaped bottle. "My people come from New Hampshire," he says, "we only eat the real thing.")

But Finn's ministrations are only a balm, not a solution to an increasingly volatile solution. Andy has lost his job, and his bad days come faster and last longer than the good ones. In one episode, he shoots the TV because he doesn't like the ref's call in a football game he cared nothing about, and then hurls the TV across the wall, badly cutting his hand. Things will get worse before they get worse, as happens too often with PTSD. It is a subject of which Anderson has personal knowledge. Her father is a World War II veteran who endured flashbacks to atrocities at concentration camps. The book is dedicated to him.

It's a gloomy topic for a young-adult novel, but Hayley is an engaging protagonist, a sort of anti-Bella. Unlike the moody, hand-wringing twit of the *Twilight* novels, Hayley is smart, sardonic and capable, a survivor, not only of her father's ragings, but of her own freakishness. In her world, "freaks" are the opposites of "zombies." They are the achievers, the ones who escape the insatiable, blind herd and just try to "have a good time and make the world a better place."

Nobody has much of a "good" time in these pages, except for Anderson, who's thriving in her niche. Her website says she's booked two years in advance for appearances. She has been praised for speaking the truth of teens; in *The Impossible Knife of Memory*, she speaks for their parents and grandparents, as well. **B** — *Jennifer Graham*

CHILDREN'S ROOM

A weekly recommendation from the Concord Public Library

Fairy Tale Comics

Edited by Chris Duffy, 2013
(Graphic Novel, 6-12 years)


Red Riding Hood by Gigi d.g



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OUT NEXT WEEK

The Museum of Extraordinary Things
By Alice Hoffman



Hits shelves: Feb. 18

Author best known for: Publishing, among other things, 28 works of fiction, including Oprah Book Club pick *Here on Earth* and *Practical Magic*, which was made into a film starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman.

One-sentence review: "Many novels these days are called 'stunning' but this one truly IS: part love story, part mystery, part history, and all beauty." — Bestselling author (and New Hampshire resident!) Jodi Picoult

Book Report



• **Debut novelist makes the rounds:** James Scott will talk about his book, *The Kept*, on Tuesday, Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com, and on Wednesday, Feb. 19, at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com, 779-9731. The book, according to its description, contains a myriad of horrific events and presents a portrait of guilt, loss of innocence, atonement, retribution, resilience and sacrifice. Both events are free, and books will be available at each bookstore.

• **Meryl didn't speak at Lowell Feb. 5:** Darn snow. But on the bright side, if you couldn't make that date, the famous actress will instead be visiting for "A Conversation with Meryl Streep" on Tuesday, April 1, at 7:30 p.m., at the Tsongas Center (300 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Lowell, Mass). At the event, Streep will endow two new scholarship funds for UMass-Lowell, which will assist outstanding UMass-Lowell English majors with the cost of their education. Streep's appearance is the second in the Chancellor's Speaker Series (the first featured Stephen King and raised $100,000 for scholarships). The event will be moderated by Andre Dubus III, bestselling author and professor in UMass-Lowell's English Dept. All tickets for the Feb. 5 event will be honored on April 1, and ticket-holders seeking refunds should request them through the point of purchase by Tuesday, Feb. 18; call 722-8780 to obtain a refund. General admission is $30, reserved floor seating $70.

• **On your markers, get set:** Submission deadlines for the NHPTV-PBS Kids Writers Contest, sponsored by New Hampshire Public Television, are coming up. Children grades K-3 who are interested must submit their original, illustrated stories by March 25, with details available at nhptv.org/kidswrite. A panel of local judges will select first-, second- and third-place winners in April, and all the winning stories will be posted on NHPTV's website and recognized at a spring ceremony, according to a press release. More than 11,000 students have participated in the contest since 1994, and seven local children have been recognized for their work nationally. — *Kelly Sennott*

Books

Author events

• **JESSIE CROCKETT** discusses new book, *Drizzled with Death*, at Hooksett Library, 31 Mount Saint Mary's Way, Hooksett, on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m. Free to public, no charge to attend.

• **BENJAMIN KILHAM** talks about his book *Out on a Limb* on Sat., Feb. 15, at 4 p.m., at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com.

• **DENNIS ANFUSO AND DR. ALAN LINDSAY** present, discuss and sign their new novel set in the OZ universe, *OzHouse*, on Sat., Feb. 15, 2-4 p.m., at Milford Toadstool, 614 Nashua St., Lorden Plaza, Milford, 673-1734.

• **JAMES SCOTT** debut novelist talks about *The Kept* on Tues., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, gibsonsbookstore.com, and on Wed., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com, 778-9731.

• **HELEN PEPPE** visits Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, 224-0562, on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., to talk about *Pigs Can't Swim: A Memoir*.

• **HOBBLEBUSH GRANITE STATE POETRY** event featuring poets Jim Kates, Rebecca Sakallriou and Jim Fowler on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., at RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, riverrunbookstore.com, 431-2100.

• **DEBORA L. SPAR** speaks about *Wonder Women: Sex, Power, and the Quest for Perfection* at The Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St., downtown Portsmouth, on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m. Tickets $41, includes copy of book, bar beverage, book signing meet-and-greet. Call 436-2400, visit themusichall.org.

• **RICHARD HATIN** author of *Deadly Whispers* and *Evil Agreement* at Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557, on Sat., Feb. 22, 1-3 p.m.

• **REBECCA RULE** presents town history, tells stories and offers bits of town trivia at the Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave., Henniker, 428-3471, tuckerfreelibrary.org, on Sun., Feb. 23, at 2 p.m.

• **MARTHA BARRON BARRETT** reads from and discusses *Slow Travel* on Sun., Feb. 23, at 3 p.m., at RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com.

• **WILEY CASH** reads from and discusses *The Dark Road to Mercy* on Tues., Feb. 25, at 7 p.m., at RiverRun Bookstore, 142 Fleet St., Portsmouth, 431-2100, riverrunbookstore.com.

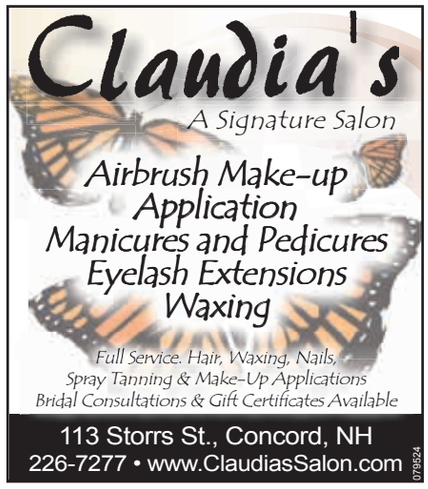
• **G.M. BROWNING** visits Barnes & Noble, 1741 S. Willow St., Manchester, 668-5557, on Sat., March 1, at 1 p.m., to talk about *Everblade*.

• **KATE ALCOTT** (pseudonym for Patricia O'Brien) author of *The Daring Ladies of Lowell* and *The Dressmaker* speaks at the Pelham Senior Center, Nashua Road, Pelham, on Tues., March 4, at 6 p.m. New York Times bestselling author of historical fiction. Free. Contact Pelham Public Library, 24 Village Green, Pelham, 635-7581, pelhampubliclibrary.org for more information.

• **NEIL SWIDEY** talks about *Trapped Under Sea* on Tues., March 4, at 7 p.m., at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, waterstreetbooks.com, 778-9731.

• **SHANNON HALE** visits Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord, on Fri., March 7, at 5 p.m., to talk about her book, *Dangerous*. Call 224-0562, visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

• **ERIC MASTERSON** presents *Birdwatching in New Hampshire* at Lawrence Barn, 28 Depot Road, Hollis, on Sat., March 8, at















Meet the Author: James Scott

The Kept

Join us as we welcome debut novelist James Scott

Tuesday, Feb. 18TH 7PM

The crimes of a benighted woman spark horrific blowback; in its wake, this wrenching first novel from the Massachusetts based Scott tracks two lost souls in the New York hinterland of the late 19th century.

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QUEEN CITY KAMIKAZE

The Queen City Kamikaze anime and video convention will be held on Sunday, Feb. 16, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Manchester Memorial High School (1 Crusader Way, Manchester). The convention will feature an Anime dating game, *Super Smash Bros.*, *Mortal Kombat*, *Dragonball Z*, *Halo 4*, *Rock Band 3* and many more games and presentations. There will also be a number of different tournaments to enter as well. Each tournament is $2. Admission to the convention is $10. Visit queencitykamikaze.com to view the schedule of games and presentations.

3 p.m. Co-sponsored by Beaver Brook, Hollis Library.

• **DAN SZCZESNY** talks about *The Adventures of Buffalo and Tough Cookie* at the Tucker Free Library, 31 Western Ave., Henniker, on Sun., March 9, at 2 p.m.; at the Rodgers Memorial Library, 194 Derry Road, Hudson, on Wed., March 19, at 7 p.m.; at the Meredith Public Library, 91 Main St., Meredith, on Tues., March 25, at 6:30 p.m.; at the Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, on Tues., April 8, at 7 p.m.; at the Griffin Free Library, 22 Hooksett Road, Auburn, on Monday, May 12, at 6:30 p.m.

• **JOHN D. MAYER** UNH professor shares *Personal Intelligence: The Power of Personality and How It Shapes Our Lives* on Thurs., March 13, at 7 p.m., at Water Street Bookstore, 125 Water St., Exeter, 778-9731, waterstreetbooks.com.

• **DANIEL THOMAS MORAN** presents latest volume of verse, *A Shed for Wood*, on Thurs., March 13, at 7 p.m., at Gibson's Bookstore, 45 S. Main St., Concord. Call 224-0562, visit gibsonsbookstore.com.

Lectures and discussions

• **"THE LISTENING PROJECT TOWARD ENDING WAR"** presentation by Becky Sakellariou at Mariposa Museum, 26 Main St., Peterborough, 924-4555, pr@mariposamuseum.org, on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. Free event.

• **PORTSMOUTH BLACK HERITAGE TRAIL LECTURE SERIES** at Discover Portsmouth, 10 Middle St., Portsmouth, on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month, 2-4 p.m. Free. Visit 436-8433, email jaboggis@portsmouthhistory.org. *Black Indians: an American Story*, film and Discussion led by Siobhan Senier on Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.; "12 Years a Slave" panel discussion led by Joe Onosko on Sun., Feb. 23, at 2 p.m.; "The Making of a Novel" by Virginia L. Towler on Sun., March 9; *The Negro Sailor* film and discussion with former submariner Alexander Welch on Sun., March 23; "New Hampshire's Battle for Civil Rights: A 50 Year Retrospective" by Valerie Cunningham on Sun., April 13; "No Longer Hidden: Blacks of Early Kittery and Berwick, Maine" by Patricia Wall on Sun., April 27.

• **"FARAWAY PLACES"** lecture series at Amherst Town Library, 14 Main St., Amherst, 673-2288. "A Year in Morocco" on Tues., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.; and "Laos: Two Capitols" on Wed., Feb. 26, at 7 p.m. Registration required. Call 673-2288, email library@amherstlibrary.org, visit amherstlibrary.org.

• **GREAT BAY COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SERIES** lunch/lecture featuring GBCC alum Katie White on Wed., Feb. 19, noon-1 p.m.; and alum and co-founder of PixelMEDIA Erik Dodier speaks on Wed., March 19, noon-1 p.m., both at Portsmouth campus, 320 Corporate Drive, Portsmouth. Call 427-7713, email gbccalumni@ccsnh.edu. Donations appreciated, proceeds benefit scholarship.

• **PORTSMOUTH ATHENAEUM SERIES** at Research Library of Portsmouth Athenaeum, 9 Market Square, Portsmouth, 431-2538, ext. 2 for reservations, $10 admission, portsmouthathenaeum.org. "What's a Portrait Doing on this Map" presentation by Matthew Edney, PhD, on Wed., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.; "New England in the Atlantic World of 1614" by Emerson Baker on Wed., March 19, at 7 p.m.

• **MAKING YOUR MONEY LAST IN RETIREMENT** presentation on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m., in Library Meeting Room, Hollis Social Library, 2 Monument Square, Hollis, 465-7721, hollislibrary.org.

Book discussions

• **THE BOOK CELLAR** in Nashua hosts a book club that meets on the first Wed. of each month, new members always welcome. The Book Cellar is at 34 Northwest Blvd., Nashua, in the Westside Plaza, 881-5570, bookcellaronline.com.

• **BOOKS IN THE MILL** spring book group series with Manchester City Library and Manchester Historic Association. Meets Thursdays at Manchester City Library mezzanine (405 Pine St., Manchester), 6:30-8 p.m., manchester.unh.edu/events.

• **CLASSICS CROWD** at Milford Toadstool Bookshop reads 19th-century British classics and meets every other month to discuss books voted on by consensus. New members always welcome. Meets on the third Thursday of the month. Visit toadstool.indiebound.com/event for book titles.

• **GIBSON'S BOOKSTORE** hosts monthly book discussions. Everyone is welcome to come for all or any of the dates. All discussion titles are 25 percent off until the date of their discussion. All meetings at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of the month unless otherwise noted. Discuss *The Yellow Birds* by Kevin Powers on Mon., March 3, at 7 p.m.

• **SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY** discussion group meets at 7 p.m. second and fourth Wednesday of each month at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford. Welcomes older teens and adults to share the books they've recently read.

• **SOCRATES CAFE** meets on the first Wed. of each month 7-8:30 p.m. at Toadstool Bookshop in Milford, hosted by Rick Branch. New members always welcome.

• **WARNER AREA BOOK CLUB** meets on certain Sundays at MainStreet BookEnds in Warner. All are welcome; call Jen at 456-3021 or email Jennkane@tds.net to sign up. 16 E. Main St., Warner, 456-2700, mainstreetbookends.com.

Poetry

• **POETRY SOCIETY OF NH** meets on the third Wed. of each month at 7 p.m. at Gibson's Bookstore for a poetry reading followed by an open mike hosted by Don Kimball. All are welcome; come to listen or to read. Presentation on Wed., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m., by Robert Crawford.

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The LEGO Movie (PG)

An average-guy construction worker Lego piece finds himself tasked with saving the universe in *The LEGO Movie*, a fun and clever animated movie featuring everybody's favorite interlocking toy bricks.

Emmet Brickowoski (voice of Chris Pratt) is just a regular guy going to his regular job in Bricksville, a place where everybody loves drinking their overpriced coffee, listening to dance-pop, eating at the local major chain restaurant and working in some way for Octan Corporation, which runs everything. Octan is headed by Lord Business (voice of Will Ferrell), a villain who seeks to control the entire Lego universe but who has the citizens of Bricksville thinking he's swell guy President Business. After all, he's sponsoring Taco Tuesday!

Emmet love Bricksville, in fact he thinks Bricksville and President Business and everything in his life is awesome (including the song "Everything Is Awesome!!!" — which is, according to the soundtrack listing, sung, awesomely, by Tegan and Sara). Perhaps, though, he is missing something, a chance to stand out, which is why he is shocked but delighted to learn he might be the Special.

The Special is a person whose existence was foretold by Vitruvius (Morgan Freeman). When Lord Business stole the deadly weapon the Kragle, the wizard Vitruvius warned him that one day, the Special would arise and he would find the Piece of Resistance, the one thing that could stop the Kragle. While at his construction site, Emmet unknowingly finds the Piece of Resistance — and he finds Wyldstyle (Elizabeth Banks), a girl who has been searching for the Piece of Resistance. She is part of a group that call themselves the Master Builders, those who live outside of Bricksville and seek to one day defeat Lord Business. When Emmet finds the Piece of Resistance, Wyldstyle brings him back to meet with the other Master Builders — her full-of-himself boyfriend Batman (Will Forte), Superman (Channing Tatum), over-eager fan-boy Green Lantern (Jonah Hill), '80s-something space guy (Charlie Day), Wonder Woman (Cobie Smulders), Uni-Kitty (Alison Brie) and more.



The Monuments Men

Explaining to him the many realms — Middle Zealand, a pirate ship, an Old West desert — of their Lego land, Lucy tries to get Emmet to commit to his mission to stop the Kragle and believe in himself. Meanwhile, Lord Business' henchman, Bad Cop/Good Cop (Liam Neeson) is hot on Emmet's trail.

The LEGO Movie works on many many levels — there are the cameos (to mention two: Anthony Daniels as C-3PO and Billy Dee Williams as Lando) and the sight gags (the "Kragle" is a tube of Krazy Glue). There are the more obvious messages (believe in yourself!) and the more subtle ones ("believe in yourself" might sound silly but sometimes you have to do it anyway). There are subtly-dissected themes about teamwork versus creativity and change versus perfection. There is a familiar plot built on the idea of a "one who will lead them" and then a nice twist on that theme. And under everything (or maybe over everything), there is a sweet and surprising father and son story. *The LEGO Movie* is masterfully done — little-kid friendly adventure, built on bigger-kid friendly cool Lego set pieces with elements of grown-up friendly humor (a spot-on joke about Siri had me nearly snort soda out of my nose) and visuals that everybody can appreciate.

The vocal work is also perfectly executed. Not only is everyone very well cast — Pratt's Emmet has all the sweetness of his Andy from *Parks & Recreation* and he can be both dopey and sincere — but their voices are used well. In particular, Freeman and Neeson have fun playing with their deep serious voices known for saying serious things. Neeson makes a great heavy but his ability to be funny (something joked about in the a sketch from Ricky Gervais' *Life's Too Short*) is what really makes the role stand out.

The LEGO Movie is an all-around excellent bit of family fun with energy, humor and story-telling that will make you see those little plastic bricks in a whole new way. **A**

Rated PG for mild action and rude humor. Directed by Phil Lord and Christopher Miller with a screenplay by Lord & Miller and a story by Dan Hageman & Kevin Hageman and Lord & Miller, THe LEGO Movie *is an hour and 40 minutes and is distributed by Warner Bros.*

The Monuments Men (PG-13)

George Clooney and Matt Damon attempt to save the great art of Europe in *The Monuments Men*, a shockingly dull movie about a fascinating and exciting moment in history.

Consider: An evil lunatic bent on world domination has stolen the most culturally significant artwork and historical artifacts of Europe and a plucky band of Americans heads into a war zone to steal those items back. Until actual superheroes appear in a hidden history of the Revolutionary War, it doesn't get more cinematic and soaringly "USA! USA!"-worthy than that.

Worried about the landmarks, pieces of art and cultural artifacts of Europe as the Allied forces begin the invasion of France, Frank Stokes (Clooney) persuades President Roosevelt to let him form an Army unit with cultural preservation as its mission. The Monuments Men, as the group is called, is (in the movie, anyway) made up of men, mostly older than the standard soldier, with expertise in areas of art and architecture: Americans James Granger (Matt Damon), Richard Campbell (Bill Murray), Preston Savitz (Bob Balaban), Walter Garfield (John Goodman) and their driver Sam Epstein (Dimitri Leonidas), plus Briton Donald Jeffries (Hugh Bonneville of *Downton Abbey*) and Frenchman Jean Claude Clermont (Jean Dujardin). They head into France in 1944 and begin a search for art they feel is in peril of being destroyed or stolen by the retreating German army and for pieces that the Germans have stolen from people and museums across Europe and hidden somewhere. There are, we learn, two elements that add a ticking clock to their task: (1) the approaching Soviet Army, which is stealing the Germans' stolen loot and (2) a directive from Hitler that calls for the destruction of everything if he is killed and Germany is defeated. Helping them to figure out what has been stolen is Claire Simone (Cate Blanchett), the curator at a Paris museum who kept meticulous notes of works the Germans took with them or destroyed.

The Monuments Men is a beautiful frothy meringue that has somehow been squashed into a flat damp puddle. Pretty art, cool dudes, WWII wisecracks — this should have been an idiot-proof recipe for movie awesomeness. I was initially surprised when this movie wasn't released in the big year-end crush of Oscar hopefuls. A movie this epic seems made for Oscar season. "A" movie but not "this" movie because nowhere in here — not in Blanchett's moody-French-lady accent, not in Goodman and Murray's old-guys-at-war dry asides and certainly not in Clooney's speechifying — is there anything that deserves to

REVIEWLETS

* indicates a movie worth seeing. For reviews of graded films, go to hippopress.com

Opening Feb. 12: *Robocop* (PG-13) gets a remake starring Joel Kinnanman.

Opening Feb. 14: *About Last Night* (R) is a comedy starring Kevin Hart; *Winter's Tale* (PG-13) answers the question "what has Lady Sybil (Jessica Brown Findlay) been doing since she died?"; *Endless Love* (PG-13) is another movie with 1980s beginnings and features Alex Pettyfer and Gabriella Wilde.

***Gravity* (PG-13)**
Sandra Bullock, George Clooney.
Director Alfonso Cuaron presents this beautifully executed story of a woman stranded in space. The movie was also nominated for best actress (Bullock) and director (Cuaron) as well as cinematography, film editing, production design, original score, visual effects, sound editing and sound mixing. (This movie is scheduled for DVD release on Feb. 25 but I'd recommend seeing in in theaters and in 3D if possible.) **B+**

***I, Frankenstein* (PG-13)**
Aaron Eckhart, Billy Nighy.
Remember Phil Hartman's "Fire, bad!" Frankenstein from *Saturday Night Live*? This movie is funny but not for those reasons. **F**

***Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit* (PG-13)**
Chris Pine, Kenneth Branagh.
Just call Pine (aka new generation Capt. James T. Kirk) Mr. Reboot. Here, he brings Ryan in to the post-Cold War world in a marginally better than average action movie directed by Branagh. **C+**

***Labor Day* (R)**
Kate Winslet, Josh Brolin.
This movie (set in New Hampshire! yay us!) about a depressed woman and her brief relationship with an escaped prisoner is well-meaning but overly precious. **C+**

***Nebraska* (R)**
Will Forte, Bruce Dern.
Father and son road trip through the west in this Alexander Payne directed dark comedy/drama. The movie also received nominations for best actor. **A**

***Philomena* (PG-13)**
Judi Dench, Steve Coogan.
Sweet, funny, heart-breaking and featuring a gem of a performance from Dench, *Philomena* the true story of a woman who searchs for the son she lost nearly 50 years earlier. The movie also received nominations for best actress (Dench) and for original score and adapted screenplay. **A**

be Golden Globes filler, much less Oscar nominated. This movie features not one but two enemy armies, but it can't muster much in the way of urgency or tension (and the one time it gets close it abruptly cuts away from the excitement). There is a hint of a romance, but it feels like it's there only for the purpose of getting Blanchett's character into a fancy period dress. Moments of buddy-comedy-ness are cut short, as are the fun detective sequences about where the stolen art might be hiding. The movie goes half-a-dozen ways with its tone and relationships, ultimately muting anything that might have been interesting about the characters or their adventures.

The Monuments Men is a great example of how nothing — not the most interesting story in the world, full of danger and derring-do — really tells itself and even the application of a solid cast can't make up for a shaky plot and weak writing. **D+**

Rated PG-13 for some images of war violence and historical smoking. Directed by George Clooney with a screenplay by George Clooney & Grant Heslov (from the book by Robert M. Edsel and Bret Witter), The Monuments Men *is an hour and 58 minutes long and distributed by Columbia Pictures.*

Vampire Academy (PG-13)

A vampire and her best friend/protector navigate plots to destroy her and the even more treacherous world of high school in *Vampire Academy*, yet another attempt to start a *Twilight*-like movie franchise.

Rose Hathaway (Zoey Deutch) is a Dhampir, and her bestie Lissa Dragomir (Lucy Fry) is a Moroi, which is to say that Lissa is a good vampire (drinks blood but isn't immortal, can go out in sunlight, doesn't sparkle) who is a member of the vampire royalty, and Rose is a human-vampire hybrid who eats regular food and whose kind have special abilities to protect the Moroi. In Rose's case, those abilities include butt-kicking and sassy-pants-ness. After a car accident killed Lissa's parents and brother, she and Rose ran away from the private vampire school — which Rose calls Vampire Academy — they both attended because Rose felt that Lissa was in danger. They survived on their own for two years, enjoying the benefits of modern, non-vampire life such as iPhones and fast food. But then Dhampirs led by Dimitri (Danila Kozlovsky) find Lissa and Rose and bring them back to school, because if they didn't come back the movie couldn't be called "Vampire Academy" now could it?

After all that freedom, Rose in particular chafes at high school life but she is eager to earn her right to be a real protector for Lissa, not just a novice, and she fears that something at the school is still out to get Lissa. Because Rose and Lissa have a psychic link, Rose is able to see the pranks with a sinister edge that are played on Lissa (by a jealous mean-girl or a soulless bad-guy group of vampires called Strigoi) and to see Lissa meet Christian (Dominic Sherwood), a brooding boy with his own sad family story.

Christian, with his high pale forehead, poofy hair, and perpetual pout of existential angst, is kind of a perfect parody version of *Twilight*'s male lead, Edward Cullen. In fact, the movie even makes a few *Twilight* jokes along with a few "gaah, high school" observations and Rose's constant wise-ass patter. The movie seems to be trying to be a mix of humorous riffs on its genre — supernatural romance meets high school drama — while also going for girl-positive action movie and setting up a saga that we might care enough about to come back for another movie or two. That is a lot of things for one movie to do — more things, as it turns out, than this movie could do successfully.

On top of having its fingers in all those genre pies, the movie is also loaded down characters. I haven't even mention the various kinds of vamps played by Gabriel Byrne, Olga Kurlenko (a *Quantum of Solace* Bond girl), Sarah Hyland (better known as *Modern Family*'s Haley), Claire Foy (best known for being the troublemaking sister in the reboot of *Upstairs Downstairs* from a few years ago) and Joely Richardson. *Vampire Academy* is crammed with people and backstory and vampire mythology and story themes, seemingly in desperate hope that a few of them will appeal to the audience. But with so much stuff to fit in, nothing really gets enough attention.

The movie could have given us more about the deep friendship between Rose and Lissa or it could have focused on a group mystery-solving dynamic that included Dimitri, Christian and Hyland's character Natalie. It could have been a romance or it could have been more of a smart comedy about high school. Instead, it feels like an unsuccessful mash of all of these things with heavy doses of attitude borrowed from previous entries into the genre: a little *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* high school-as-demon-world metaphor here, a little tortured-by-what-they-are *Twilight* glumness there, some Hogwarts-style private school hijinks, some unconvincing girl-kicking-butt action.

I didn't like *Vampire Academy* but I did feel constantly as though I was supposed to like it, as though it had been constructed for me and people like me, people who enjoy a good vampire yarn, preferably told with humor and action. Unfortunately, like the pointy-toothed creatures who are the movie's supernatural villains, *Vampire Academy* is too often cold, soulless and bloodless. **C-**

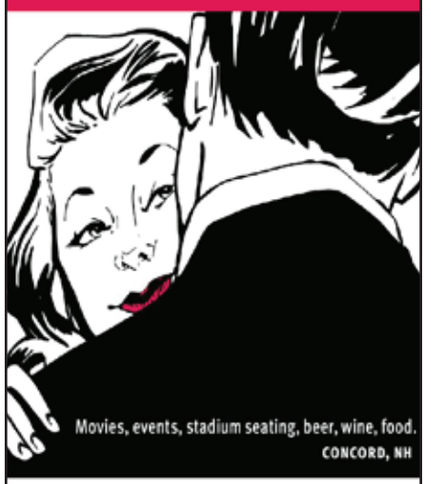
Rated PG-13 for violence, bloody images, sexual content and language. Directed by Mark Waters and written by Daniel Waters (from the first book in the series by Richelle Mead), Vampire Academy *is an hour and 44 minutes long and distributed by The Weinstein Company.*

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MOVIES OUTSIDE THE CINEPLEX

Film

RED RIVER THEATRES
11 S. Main St., Concord, redriver-theatres.org, 224-4600
• **Oscar nominated shorts: documentary** (NR, 2013) Thurs., Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.; & Thurs., Feb. 20, at 5:30 p.m.
• **Oscar nominated shorts: live action** (NR, 2013) Thurs., Feb. 13, at 2:10 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 14, at 3:30 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 16, at 6:15 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 17, at 5:30 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 18, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; & Wed., Feb. 19, at 5:30 p.m.
• **Oscar nominated shorts: animated** (NR, 2013) on Fri., Feb. 14, at 1:15 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 5:45 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 16, at 1:15 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 17, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 18, at 5:30 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 19, at 2:10 & 7:45 p.m.; & Thurs., Feb. 20, at 2:10 p.m.
• ***Her*** (R, 2013) Thurs., Feb. 13, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 14, at 2, 5 & 8 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 2, 5 & 8 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 & 5 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 17, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 18, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 19, at 2 & 5:25 p.m.; & Thurs., Feb. 20, at 2, 5:25 & 8 p.m.
• ***Philomena*** (PG-13, 2013) Thurs., Feb. 13, at 2:05 p.m.; Fri., Feb. 14, at 1 & 6 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 1 & 6 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 16, at 1 & 6 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 17, at 2:05 & 5:25 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 18, at 2:05 & 5:25 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 19, at 2:05 p.m.; & Thurs., Feb. 20, at 2:05 & 5:25 p.m.
• ***Bettie Page Reveals All*** (R, 2013) on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 5:30 p.m.
• ***Sunrise*** (1927) on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. Admission $10 per person. Featuring music by silent film composer Jeff Rapsis.
• ***All is Lost*** (PG-13, 2013) on Fri., Feb. 14, at 3:20 & 8:20 p.m.; Sat., Feb. 15, at 3:20 & 8:20 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 16, at 3:20 p.m.; Mon., Feb. 17, at 7:45 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 18, at 7:45 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 18, at 7:45 p.m.; Wed., Feb. 19, at 7:45 p.m.; & Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7:45 p.m.
• ***The Half-Naked Truth*** (NR, 1932) on Sun., Feb. 16, at 4 p.m.
• ***Bob Marley: The Making of a Legend*** (NR, 2011) on Wed., Feb. 19, at 6 p.m.

WILTON TOWN HALL
40 Main St. in Wilton, 654-3456, wiltontownhalltheatre.com
• ***Nebraska*** (R, 2013) Thurs., Feb. 13, through Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screening on Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.
• ***Inside Llewyn Davis*** (R, 2013) Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7:30 p.m.
• ***Earth 2100*** (documentary) on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 4:30 p.m.
• ***Philomena*** (PG-13, 2013) Fri., Feb. 14, through Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7:30 p.m. Additional screening on Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.
• ***The Goodbye Girl*** (PG, 1977) on Sat., Feb. 15, at 4:30 p.m.
• ***Earth 2100*** (documentary) on Sun., Feb. 16, at 4:30 p.m.

MANCHESTER CITY LIBRARY
405 Pine St., Manchester, 624-6550, manchester.lib.nh.us
• ***Dead Poets Society*** (PG, 1989) on Wed., Feb. 19, at 1 p.m.

WEST BRANCH COMMUNITY LIBRARY
76 N. Main St., Manchester, 624-6560, manchester.lib.nh.us
• ***Sound of Music: Live with Carrie Underwood*** on Fri., Feb. 14, at 3 p.m.
• ***Snow Buddies*** (G, 2008) on Fri., Feb. 21, at 3 p.m.

BEDFORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
3 Meetinghouse Road, Bedford, 472-3023, bedfordonline.com, free movie at 2 p.m. on the third Sunday of the month, presented through Parks & Recreation
• ***To Please a Lady*** (1950) on Sun., Feb. 16, at 2 p.m.

CONCORD PUBLIC LIBRARY
45 Green St., Concord, 230-3682, onconcord.com/library
• ***Groundhog Day*** (PG, 1993) on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 6:30 p.m.

MCAULIFFE-SHEPARD DISCOVERY CENTER
2 Institute Drive, Concord, starhop.com, 271-7827
• ***Casablanca*** (1942) on Fri., Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. Refreshments, music, cash bar, night sky telescope observing, scavenger hunt, science activities, door prizes.

CHUNKY'S CINEMA
151 Coliseum Ave., Nashua, 880-8055
• **Chick Flick month** with *The Notebook* (PG-13, 2004) on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.; *Dirty Dancing* (PG-13, 1987) on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.

NASHUA PUBLIC LIBRARY
NPL Theater, 2 Court St., Nashua, 589-4600, nashualibrary.org.
• ***Blue Jasmine*** (PG-13, 2013) Film discussion on Thurs., Feb. 20, at 7 p.m.
• ***How to Train Your Dragon*** (PG, 2010) on Sat., Feb. 15, at 2 p.m.
• ***All is Lost*** (PG-13, 2013) on Tues., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.

RODGERS MEMORIAL LIBRARY
194 Derry Road, Route 102, Hudson, rodgerslibrary.org. 886-6030
• **Cinema Celebration** on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m.; Thurs., March 13, at 6:30 p.m.
• **Free Family Film** on Sat., Feb. 15, at 1 p.m.

THE MUSIC HALL
28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org, Some films are screened at Music Hall Loft, 131 Congress St.
• ***Short Term 12*** (R, 2013) on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.
• **HD Broadcast:** ***Romeo & Juliet*** on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 7 p.m.
• ***12 Years a Slave*** (R, 2013) on Sat., Feb. 15, at 3 & 7 p.m.; & Tues., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.
• ***Is the Man Who is Tall Happy?*** (NR) on Sat., Feb. 15, at 7 p.m.; Sun., Feb. 16, at 4 p.m.; Tues., Feb. 18, at 7 p.m.; & Wed., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.
• **Oscar-nominated short films: live action** on Wed., Feb. 19, at 7 p.m.

SEACOAST REPERTORY THEATRE
125 Bow St., Portsmouth, 433-4793, seacoastrep.org
• **Troma-Fest** *Tromeo and Juliet* (R, 1996) *Poultrygeist: Night of the Chicken Dead* (NR, 2006) on Fri., Feb. 21, at 8 p.m.Call 433-4472, visit seacoastrep.org.

THE FLYING MONKEY
39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
• ***Sunrise*** (1927) on Thurs., Feb. 13, at 6:30 p.m., with live musical accompaniment by Jeff Rapsis

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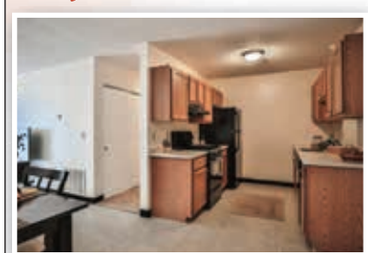
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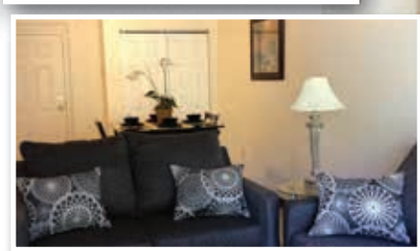


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THE ROUND UP

Local music news & events

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

• **Wordplay:** This week's Slam Free or Die features **Marlon Carey** and the regular open-mike reading. Named best hip-hop poet two years running at the Cambridge Poetry Awards, Carey has published three volumes of his work and released an EP called *There Is No Plan, Be*, containing a mix of spoken word and hip-hop selections. The event takes place in Milly's Riverside Room. Slam Free or Die is on Thursday, Feb. 13, at 7 p.m. at Milly's Tavern, 500 Commercial St., Manchester. See facebook.com/SlamFreeOrDie.

• **Romantic:** Enjoy a three-course meal with chocolate mousse for dessert as **Tony Moschetto**, host Mike Holmes and two other comedians entertain at a couples-centric Valentine's Day show in Nashua. Comedy On Purpose provide the laughs during dinner, and the fun continues after with Dueling Pianos performing next door; the interactive show begins at 10 p.m. Valentine's Day Dinner & Comedy Show is Friday, Feb. 14, at 7 p.m. at Arena Sports Bar, Grill & Nightclub, 53 High St., Nashua. Tickets $50/couple. See arenanh.com.

• **Colorful:** After performing on the nationally televised Beatles tribute playing a guitar that looked lifted from *Yellow Submarine*, **Brad Paisley** returns to his country wheelhouse with a show in downtown Manchester. The *Beat This Winter Tour* lineup includes *Nashville Star* winner Chris Young ("Tomorrow") and Danielle Bradbery. See Paisley on Saturday, Feb. 15, at 7:30 p.m. at Verizon Wireless Arena, Elm Street, Manchester. Tickets $39.75-$99.75 at Ticketmaster.com.

• **Earthy:** Led by a father and son team, **Hilton Park** plays rootsy Americana appealing to fans of Nickel Creek and Crosby, Stills, Nash & Young. Playing a wide range of instruments (guitar and piano, with Dobro, mandolin and Weissenborn mixed in), the trio offers rich harmonies and insightful songwriting. Prolific singer/songwriter Andrew Polakow shares the bill. See Hilton Park and Andrew Polakow on Monday, Feb. 17, at 9 p.m. at The Red Door, 107 State St., Portsmouth, reddoorportsmouth.com.

• **Jammin':** With the recent anniversary of his birth, there's increased interest in reggae pioneer **Bob Marley**. A 2011 documentary includes the first Wailers rehearsal, Marley's rise to fame and a look at the Jamaican hometown that shaped him and his music. Some footage hasn't been seen in over 30 years; a director Q&A follows. See *Bob Marley: The Making of a Legend* on Wednesday, Feb. 19 at 6 p.m. at Red River Theatres, 11 S. Main St., Concord. Tickets are $12 at redrivertheatres.org.

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NITE

Winner's circle

Regional musicians gather for New England Music Awards

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

The New England Music Awards began with a phone call — two friends commiserating about their favorite bands. Joe Graham hosted the weekly show *A Local Anesthetic* on Cambridge radio station WMBR, and Dennis Hennessey ran Boston label Sugarpop Records.

"We were discussing the idea of a showcase event to spotlight the bands that we thought were just a bit better than the rest of what was out there," Graham said.

It moved from just another late night phone call to a plan of action pretty fast, recalled Graham.

"I bought the nemusicwards.com domain name the next morning, called Dennis and said, 'Now what?'"

They organized a nominating committee made up of radio people, club owners, booking agents, journalists and the like. Then, they commenced spreading the word about NEMA to the music community.

Seven hundred submissions came the first year. For the ceremony, they hooked on to a Hard Rock Café show put on by promoter friend John Fleming, who suggested a presentation prior to the concert.

"Then, we realized that two of the three bands on the bill were already nominees," Graham said. "We said, let's have them perform as part of the awards. Then we pulled in a few more bands."

The show sold out — 200 tickets.

New England Music Awards

When: Saturday, Feb. 22, at 7 p.m.
Where: Lowell Memorial Auditorium
Admission: Free (VIP Kickoff Party on Friday, Feb. 21, at UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center $15 at flemingentertainment.ticketleap.com) Details on VIP packages and ancillary events at nemusicawards.com.



Best Band of NH nominee Dressed For The Occasion, performing at the New England Music Awards. Photo by Lee Hopkins.

The following year, 1,100 performers sent music for award consideration. For the third annual awards show, happening Feb. 22 at the Lowell Memorial Auditorium, the number mushroomed to over 4,500. The event is firmly ensconced in the regional music scene, with a crowd of 2,000 expected and over 25,000 individual votes cast in balloting that closed Jan. 31.

For Manchester rockers A Simple Complex, the awards are a big motivator. The group is hoping to win after making the final five in the Best Hard Rock/Metal category for a third time.

"Getting nominated by NEMA is one of the best recognitions a local band in the area could ask for," said singer/guitarist Mark Ingoldsby. "It says that venue owners, radio personalities, music writers and local record labels not only know who you are but think you are one of the best bands in the region. It is a huge honor for us."

Winning translates to opportunity, Graham said.

"For many acts, it opened the door for them all year long," he said.

The 2013 Best In State bands from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island performed at a downtown Boston festival as part of their prize. Many other winners opened for big names during last year's Lowell Summer Music Series.

The awards ceremony, hosted by comedian Steve Sweeny, will feature last year's live act of the year, Sarah Borello, along with several currently nominated perfomers. There is a pre-party showcase at Gemstones/Blue Shamrock with three NEMA recipients from last year, led by Adam Ezra Group (Best Band).

There are a handful of tickets available for the public to attend the NEMA VIP Kickoff party on Friday, Feb. 21, at UMass Lowell Inn & Conference Center. It includes a special awards ceremony and performances by youthful RADAR nominees Chris Ross, Francesca Blanchard, Amy Allen and Sarah Barrios, along with a set from Jazz Act of the Year nominees President Soup.

Friday's event concludes with three special acknowledgements. The Grassroots Award for dedication to humanitarian causes will go to Louis Gendron, founder of the Acoustic For Autism project. The Scene Award, given for "dedication, involvement and contribution to the New England music scene," goes to arts & culture organization Lowell Celebrates Kerouac! Finally, musician Ernie Boch, founder of the not-for-profit Music Drives Us, will receive the Decade Award for distinguished service.

Gonzo remembrance

Anniversary of author's passing marked in music, readings

By Michael Witthaus
mwitthaus@hippopress.com

Having a favorite Hunter S. Thompson quote is akin to a secret handshake in certain circles. Many favor the Gonzo journalist's takedown of the TV business: "a long plastic hallway where thieves and pimps run free and good men die like dogs, for no good reason."

For Mike Effenberger, one Thompson utterance is a kōan of sorts: "When the going get weird, the weird turn pro." The keyboard player is a member of Generation of Swing, who will mark the anniversary of Thompson's death on Feb. 20 with an evening of music and spoken word performances.

"Whenever things have gotten tricky for me I have tried to keep that sentence of his in mind," explained Effenberger recently. "I think he is right, and it's my sincere hope the night will be both. … We are stacking the deck with some of the best and weirdest musicians in the area."

The band includes Stu Dias, Jonathan Paul, Steve Roy, Effenberger and his bandmate in Tan Vampires, Chris Klaxton. Each has his own connection to the writer with

a singular, frequently chemically altered, perspective.

For Klaxton, the affinity began with the novelistic *Fear & Loathing in Las Vegas*.

"It was, for me, a completely new sense of story, sense of humor, and sense of darkness," he said. "Through that darkness I eventually saw a very lighthearted thing. He had the ability to look at travesty and ugliness with humor. His frankness delivers more with a single sentence than many can on a full page."

Effenberger also came to Thompson via the drug-soaked book, which introduced phrases like "bad craziness" and this brilliant observation: "In a world of thieves, the only final sin is stupidity."

"Enough people have said enough about the quality, brutally incisive clarity, and abandon with which he wrote," observed Effenberger. "I guess I'll just say that I think we really lost a big one there, and I feel it is important to have at least one day per year to remember that."

The planned event is one of a kind, a rock *Brigadoon*.

"It will be a reckless combination of original music written for this night only," said Effenberger. "Spoken word collaborations, gonzo improvisation, some of the music of the '60s and '70s that seems to have spoken to Thompson, and readings from his work."

The band's name riffs on Thompson's multivolume anthology *Generation of Swine*. Members play together in a few different configurations; Roy, Effenberger and Klaxton are in Jazzputin & The Jazz Skunks, which did a Thompson tribute in 2011 at the now-defunct Barley Pub in Dover.



Hunter S. Thompson. Art from fanpop.com.

Effenberger plays with Dias in Gnarlemagne. When asked for his thoughts on Thompson, Dias turned philosophical.

"Hunter existed in a bubble. That is the only explanation I can come up with for how honest his appraisal of the world was," said Dias. "He was immune to writing conventions in that he could have two competing thoughts occupy the same headspace and sometimes it would take a while to see which one was the winner."

He expects the night will, "entail all manner of strangeness." Spoken word performers include Bruce Pingree, Jason Santo, Geoff Pingree, Heather Elizabeth, and Mike Nelson.

Added Dias, "It will be a mix of old and new, electric, psychedelic, and free-ish music."

"I'm excited to get together with these musicians and perform," said Klaxton. "Much of this tribute should be unscripted and slightly dangerous … something that I think Hunter would be proud of."

Generation of Swing: Hunter S. Thompson Night

When: Thursday, Feb. 20, at 9 p.m. (21+)
Where: Press Room, 77 Daniel St., Portsmouth
More: pressroomnh.com

Nightlife

Music, Comedy & Parties

• **ALLI BEAUDRY/RYAN SANDFORD** at St. Anselm College (100 St. Anselm Dr., Manchester 641-7000) on Thu., Feb. 13 at 8 p.m. St. A's Is For Lovers event with beloved local performer Beaudry and singer songwriter Sandford, a regular performer at Beaudry's monthly song pull at Café La Reine in downtown Manchester. .

• **VALENTINE'S DAY SOUL RECITAL** at Dreamsicle Studio (102 Main Street, Suncook Village 210-1932) on Fri., Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. $25/RSVP recommended - Vincent King from Nightshift and Elliot Skinner, both standout Berklee students, perform romantic evening of beautiful music, desserts and drinks and a champagne toast.

• **BERT SCOTT BAND** at American Legion Post 51 (Route 125, across from Telly's, Epping 773-4250) on Sat., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. $8/door - Valentine's dance featuring 60's, 70's, Rock, Rhythm & Blues. Cash bar will be open.

• **ED GERHARD** at Seacoast Repertory Theatre (125 Bow St., Portsmouth 483-4472) on Sat., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Gerhard is celebrating his latest CD "There and Gone," a collection of original compositions and covers including a stunning arrangement of "Imagine/Across the Universe," "I'm So Lonesome I Could Cry" and a concert favorite on Weissenborn, "Killing the Blues."

• **BALLROOM THIEVES** at Amoskeag Studio (250 Commercial St., Manchester 315-9320) on Sat., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. $20 ($10/students) Rock disguised as folk.

• **LONESOME TRAIN BAND** at American Legion Post 59 (538 W. Main Street, Hillsborough 478-0091) on Sat., Feb. 15 at 8 p.m. Country band featuring Scott "Snake" Miller; the show is open to members and guests.

• **BIG BAND VALENTINE'S DANCE** at Crowne Plaza Hotel (2 Somerset Pkwy, Nashua 886-1200) on Sat., Feb. 15 at 7 p.m. $18. Compaq Big Band showcases power with Rebecca Holtz on vocals. Beginner-friendly swing dance lesson from 7:30-8:30pm.

• **JODY MORRISSETTE/MEG JOSALEN** at Exeter High School (1 Blue Hawk Drive, Exeter 395-2400) Tue., Feb. 18 at 6:30 p.m. Special alumni guest performance at the annual Winter Concert.

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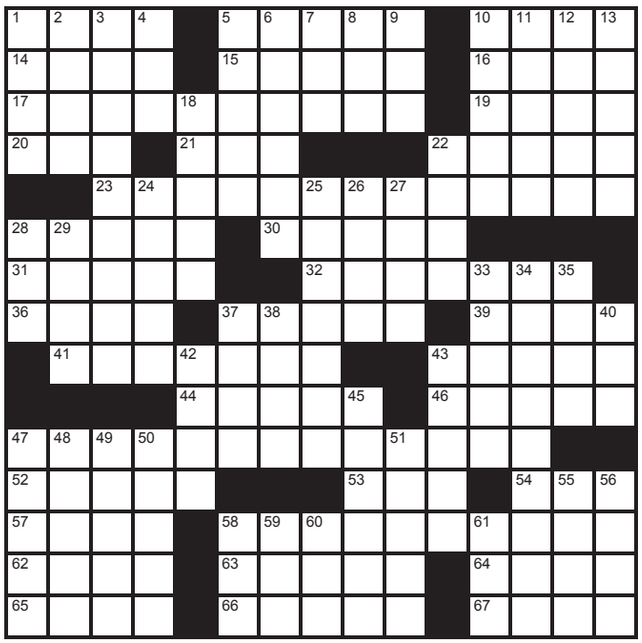
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Across

1. Soft __ 'Tainted Love'
5. Dokken's love was 'Burning Like' it
10. La Roux '__ __ By Magic' (2,2)
14. Sarah McLachlan "We are born innocent" song
15. What comeback career had done
16. Miike Snow might put one on his mantle
17. '00 No Doubt hit '__ __ Of Life' (6,4)
19. LMFAO 'I'm __ __ B****' (2,2)
20. Fountains Of Wayne "Stacy can't you __ you're just not the girl for me"
21. Creed's poetic homage?22. Kind of maid to Beatles
23. '97 Son Volt album about A to B roads?
28. What Marc Anthony did in Bringing Out The Dead
30. Phantom Planet's 'California' was theme song to this show (3,2)
31. Iron Maiden tribute album 'A Call To __'
32. Michael Jackson 'Black __ __' (2,5)
36. Electronic Brits that are not in stereo?
37. Korn 'Sean ___'
39. Uriah Heep singer Bernie
41. Twisted Sister '__ __ Gonna Take It' (4,2)
43. Ben Folds Five "__ __ brick and I'm drowning slowly" (4,1)
44. Rocker's IRS inspection
46. Bluesman Stevens47. Moody Blues '__ Satin' (6,2,5)
52. Rage Against The Machine album 'The Battle __ __ Angeles' (2,3)
53. Big Wreck 'The __ (My Luck Is Wasted)'
54. Pete Townshend band
57. 'Firecracker' Adams
58. Grace Jones '___ Man'
62. I'm __ Down
63. Debate, over album title
64. Justin Timberlake 'Nothin' __'
65. 'I Want A New Drug' Lewis
66. Who Beastie Boys's '98 album said 'Hello' to
67. Rush's Lifeson



Down

1. Elliot of Mamas & Papas
2. Cult hit off 'Sonic Temple'
3. Charlie Daniels 'Franklin __'
4. Kate Bush 'Sat In Your __'
5. Soul singer Payne
6. KC & The Sunshine Band 'That's The Way I __ __' (4,2)
7. 'Take Me __ __ Am' Tonic (2,1)
8. Will Smith movie/#1 song '__ In Black'
9. Apolcalyptica w/Gavin Rossdale '__ Of Me'
10. Tommy Stinson "My home w/out __ __" (1,4)
11. I Saw Mommy Kissing __ Claus
12. Brothers Ernie and Ronald
13. Stage frights
18. 'Can't Find My Way Home' House Of __
22. Presidents Of The United States Of America '__ 5'
24. Pavarotti, e.g.
25. Band Of Horses "Is there a __ __ my house?" (5,2)
26. Mariah Carey's smash about her savior?
27. Bruce 'Darkness On The Edge Of __'
28. '__ To Please' 7 Seconds
29. 'Run, Baby, Run' Sheryl
33. Chris Rea "Sun __ __, beating down" (2,3)
34. Bryan Adams '__ __ Never Be Another Tonight' (5,4)
35. Deftness in playing
37. David Soul 'Don't Give Up __ __' (2,2)
38. "Ran out of time and money, looks like they took my friends" CCR
40. Hinder 'By The __'
42. Chows down after show
43. Cliff Richard song for video store section? (hyph)
45. __ __ Of Three Ain't Bad (3,3)
47. BTO is from here
48. Stevie Wonder '__ __ Really Love Me' (2,3)
49. LA's __ Of Rockets
50. John Lennon & Yoko Ono 'Milk And __'
51. Shay of N.E.R.D.
55. First thing a groupie loses?
56. '06 Three Days Grace album (3,1)
58. 'Believe In Me' Fogelberg
59. The time of psychedelic rock music, e.g
60. Booker T sidekicks
61. What Mama Kin smoked in Aerosmith tune

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MUSIC THIS WEEK

Amherst
La Belle Winery
345 Route 101 672-9898

Auburn
Auburn Pitts
167 Rockingham Rd
622-6564

Barrington
Chip 'N Run Pub
550 Province Rd 664-2030

Bedford
Bedford Village Inn
2 Olde Bedford Way 472-2001
Copper Door
15 Leavy Drive 488-2677
Shorty's
206 Route 101
488-5706
Starbucks
220 S. River Rd 263-0061

Belmont
El Jimador
171 DW Highway 527-8122
Lakes Region Casino
1265 Laconia Rd. 267-7778
Lodge at Belmont
Route 106 877-872-2501
Top of the Town
88 Ladd Hill Rd 528-3244

Boscawen
Alan's
133 N. Main St. 753-6631

Bow
Chen Yang Li
520 South St. 228-8508

Bradford
Appleseed Restaurant
63 High St., 938-2100

Bristol
Back Room at Mill
2 Central St. 744-0405

Brookline
Cozy Tea Cart
104 Route 13
249-9111
Mad Hatter Bar & Grill
99 Route 13
672-1800

Concord
Barley House
132 N. Main, 228-6363
Granite Restaurant & Bar
96 Pleasant St. 227-9000
Hermanos
11 Hills Ave. 224-5669
Makris
354 Sheep Davis Rd
225-7665
Penuche's Ale House
6 Pleasant St. 228-9833
Pit Road Lounge
388 Loudon Rd 226-0533
Red Blazer
72 Manchester St. 224-4101
Tandy's Top Shelf
1 Eagle Square 856-7614
True Brew Barista
3 Bicentennial Square
225-2776

Contoocook
Contoocook Covered Bridge
Cedar St. 746-5191

Deerfield
Lazy Lion Café
4 North Road 463-7374

Derry
Coffee Factory
55 Crystal Ave 432-6006
Halligan Tavern
32 W. Broadway 965-3490
Sabatino's North
1 E. Broadway 432-7999
Steve-N-James Tavern
187 Rockingham Rd
434-0600

Dover
11th Frame Bar
887 B Central Ave. 742-9632
Asia
42 Third Street 742-9816
Barley Pub
328 Central Ave. 742-4226
Cara Irish Pub
11 Fourth St. 343-4390
Cartelli's
446 Central Ave. 750-4002
Dover Brick House
2 Orchard St. 749-3838
Fury's Publick House
1 Washington St 617-3633
Jimmy's Sports Bar
15 Mechanic St. 740-4477
Kelley's Row
421 Central Ave. 750-7081
Loft at Strafford Farms
58 Route 108 743-3045
RJ's
83 Washington St.
Roger's Pizza
869 Central Ave. 742-9870
Sonny's Tavern
328 Central Ave 343-4332
Top of the Chop
One Orchard St. 740-0006

Epping
Holy Grail
64 Main St. 679-9559

Epsom
Circle 9 Ranch
39 Windymere Dr. 736-9656

Exeter
Shooter's Pub
10 Columbus Ave. 772-3856

Gilford
Ellacoya Barn & Grille
2667 Lakeshore Rd 293-8700
Patrick's
18 Weirs Rd. 293-0841

Goffstown
Village Trestle
25 Main St. 497-8230
Wa Toy
611 Mast Rd 668-1088

Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse
220 East Main St 378-0092
Village Square
472 State St. 329-6879

Hampton
Boardwalk Inn
139 Ocean Blvd. 929-7400
Breakers By the Sea
409 Ocean Blvd 926-7702
La Bec Rouge
73 Ocean Blvd 926-5050
Old Salt
409 Lafayette Rd 926-8322
Ron's Landing
379 Ocean Blvd 929-2122
Wally's Pub
144 Ashworth Ave. 926-6954
Whales Tales
169 Ocean Blvd 967-4771

Hanover
Jesse's Tavern
224 Lebanon St 643-4111
Salt Hill Pub Hanover
7 Lebanon Street 676-7855

Henniker
Country Spirit
262 Maple Street 428-7007
Daniel's
Main St. 428-7621
Henniker Junction
24 Weare Rd. 428-8511
Pat's Peak Sled Pub
24 Flander's Road 888-728-7732

Hollis
Alpine Grove
19 S. Depot Road 882-9051

Hooksett
Asian Breeze
1328 Hooksett Rd 621-9298
New England's Tap House Grille
1292 Hooksett Rd. 782-5137
Pizza Man
River Road

Hudson
AJ's Sports Bar & Grill
11 Tracy Lane 718-1102
JD Chaser's
2B Burnham Rd 886-0792
Nan King Restaurant & Lounge
222 Central St. 882-1911
SoHo
49 Lowell Rd. 889-6889

Kingston
Bucco's Tavern
143 Main St. 642-4999
Kingston 1686 House Tavern
127 Main St. 642-3637

Laconia
Anthony's Pier
263 Lakeside Ave. 366-5855
Baja Beach Club @ China Bistro
89 Lake St. 524-0008
Broken Spoke Saloon
1072 Watson Rd 866-754-2526
Cactus Jack's
1182 Union Ave. 528-7800
Crazy Gringo
306 Lakeside Ave. 366-4411
Fratello's Lakes
799 Union Ave. 528-2022
Jazz Bar
290 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100
Margate Resort
76 Lake St. 524-5210
Naswa Resort
1086 Weirs Blvd. 366-4341
Paradise Beach Club
322 Lakeside Ave. 366-2665
Patio Garden
Lakeside Ave.
Pitman's Freight Room
94 New Salem St. 527-0043
Tower Hill Tavern
264 Lakeside Ave. 366-9100
Lobster Pound
72 Endicott St. 366-2255
Weirs Beach Smokehouse
Rt 3 Laconia 366-2400

Londonderry
Coach Stop Restaurant & Tavern
176 Mammoth Rd 437-2022
Stumble Inn Bar & Grill
20 Rockingham Road 432-3210
Twins Smoke Shop
128 Rockingham Rd
Whippersnappers
44 Nashua Rd No. 13 434-2660

Loudon
Hungry Buffalo
58 New Hampshire 129 798-3737

Manchester
Breezeway Pub
14 Pearl St. 621-9111
British Beer Company
1071 S. Willow St. 232-0677
City Sports Grille
216 Maple St. 625-9656
CK's Grill
791 Second St 669-2868
Club 313
93 S. Maple St. 628-6813
Derryfield Country Club
625 Mammoth Road 623-2880
Don Quijote
333 Valley St. 792-1110
Drynk
20 Old Granite St. 641-2583
Element Lounge
1055 Elm St. 627-2922
Farm Bar & Grille
1181 Elm St. 641-3276
Fratello's
155 Dow Street 624-2022
Gaucho's Churrascaria
62 Lowell St. 669-9460
Hanover St. Chophouse
149 Hanover Street 644-2467
Ignite Bar & Grille
100 Hanover St. 494-6225
J. Dubs Coffee
1000 Elm St. 622-7944
Jade Dragon MHT
1087 Elm St. 669-5523
Jam Factory
1211 Elm St. 203-1458
Jokers
1279 South Willow Street 935-9947
Karma Hookah & Cigar Bar
1077 Elm St. 647-6653
Luigi's Pizza Bar & Grille
712 Valley 622-1021
Mad Bob's Saloon
342 Lincoln St. 669-3049
McGarvey's
1097 Elm St. 627-2721
Midnight Rodeo (Yard)
1211 S. Mammoth Road 623-3545
Milly's Tavern
500 Commercial St. 625-4444
Murphy's Taproom
494 Elm St. 644-3535
N'awlins Grille
860 Elm St. 606-2488
Olympic Lounge
506 Valley St. 644-5559
Penuche's on Hanover
96 Hanover St. 626-9830
Piccola's
815 Elm St. 296-4070
Raxx Lounge
1195 Elm St. 203-1458
Salona Bar & Grill
128 Maple St. 624-4020
Shaskeen
909 Elm St. 625-0246
Shorty's
1050 Bicentennial Dr. 625-1730
Sizzle Bistro
1 Highlander Way 232-3344
Social 24
24 Depot St. 782-8489
Starbucks
1111 South Willow St 641-4839
Strange Brew Tavern
88 Market St. 666-4292
Theos
102 Elm St. 669-4678
TJ's Bar & Grill
23 Central St. 660-2241
Unwine'd
865 Second St. 625-9463
Wild Rover
21 Kosciuszko St. 669-7722
XO on Elm
827 Elm St. 206-5721

Meredith
Camp
300 Daniel Webster Highway 279-3003
Giuseppe's Ristorante
312 Daniel Webster Hwy 279-3313

Merrimack
Giorgio's Ristorante & Martini Bar
707 Milford Road 883-7333

Thursday, Feb. 13

Amherst
La Belle Winery: Brad Bosse

Auburn
Auburn Pitts: Rockin' Ronnie Adams

Boscawen
Alan's: John Pratt in Lounge

Concord
Granite: CJ Poole & The Sophisticated Approach
Hermanos: Joe Gattuso
Penuche's: Ghost Dinner Band/ Them in the Hive

Dover
Brick House: Ben Cook
Fury's: Erin's Guild

Epping
Holy Grail: Dan Walker

Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse: Live Music

Laconia
Paradise Beach Club: DJ Gin-E

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Timothy Gurshin
Whippersnappers: Brooks Hubbard & Paul Costley

Manchester
Breezeway Pub: DJ Pet-Impulse
Club 313: DJ Pez & DJ Carlos
Drynk: Co-Ed Thursdays with DJ Shawn Danjah White & Friends
Karma: DJ Midas w/Reed on drums
Midnight Rodeo: Line Dancing Lessons
Milly's: Lakes Region Big Band
N'awlins Grille: John Chounard
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Cactus Attach, James Maple
Shorty's: Steve Tolley
Strange Brew: Mike Fioretti

Merrimack
Homestead: Chris Cavanaugh

Nashua
Amsterdam: DJ Sammy Smoove
Boston Billiard Club: DJ & Beach Night
Shorty's NAS: Kieran McNally

Newmarket
Stone Church: Live Irish Music w/ Jordan Tirrell-Wysocki

Plaistow
Racks Bar & Grill: Blues Jam w/ Steve Devine

Portsmouth
British Beer Company: Drew Yount
Dolphin Striker: Digney Fignus
Fat Belly's: DJ PB Kidd
Gas Light: Apres Ski Party
Press Room: Soggy Po' Boys
Red Door: Eggs Eggs, Full Color, Vehement Caress
Ri Ra: Live Music
Rudi's: Mike Stockbridge Trio
Thirsty Moose: Sleepy Wonder & the Geometric Echoes

Weare
Boondocks: Malcom Salls

Friday, Feb. 14

Bedford
Shorty's: Chris Cavanaugh

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ Cliff Hounsell

Boscawen
Alan's: Jeff Mrozek Duo

Brookline
Mad Hatter: Fatha Groove

Concord
Makris: Live Music
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Chris White Band

Dover
Asia: DJ Shadow Walker
Fury's: Miss Fairchild
Kelley's Row: Pat Foley

Epping
Holy Grail: Robert Charles

Gilford
Patrick's: Dustin Ladale

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Acoustic Jam w/ John Erlman

Hampstead
Pasta Loft Brickhouse: Live Music
Village Square: Live Music

Homestead
641 Daniel Webster Highway 429-2022
Jade Dragon
515 DW Highway 424-2280
Pacific Fusion
356 Daniel Webster Highway 424-6320

Milford
Chapanga's
168 Elm St. 249-5214
Clark's Tavern
40 Nashua St. 769-3119
Giorgio's Ristorante & Meze Bar
524 Nashua St. 673-3939
J's Tavern
63 Union Sq. 249-9222
Madison's Irish Pub
586 Nashua St. 672-2060
Pasta Loft
241 Union Sq. 672-2270
Tiebreakers at Hampshire Hills
50 Emerson Road 673-7123

Nashua
603 Lounge
14 W. Hollis St. 821-5260
Amsterdam
8 Temple St. 204-5534
Arena Sportsbar & Nightclub
53 High St. 881-9060
Bernie's
522 Amherst St. 978-884-9536
Boston Billiard Club
55 Northeastern Blvd. 943-5630
Country Tavern
452 Amherst St. 889-5871
Cucina Toscana
427 Amherst St 821-7356
Fat Daddy's Café
650 Amherst St. 821-5136
Fody's Tavern
9 Clinton St. 577-9015
Haluwa Lounge
Nashua Mall 883-6662
Killarney's Irish Pub
9 Northeastern Blvd. 888-1551
Martha's Exchange
185 Main St. 883-8781
Michael Timothy's
212 Main St. 595-9334
Nashua Garden
121 Main St. 886-7363
O'Shea's Tavern & Cigar Bar
449 Amherst St. 943-7089
Peddler's Daughter
48 Main St. 821-7535
Pine Street Eatery
136 Pine St. 886-3501
Riverwalk Coffee
35 Railroad Sq. 578-0200
Slade's Food & Spirits
4 W. Hollis St. 886-1344
Stella Blu
70 E. Pearl St. 578-5557
Shorty's
48 Gusabel Ave 882-4070
Unums
47 E. Pearl St. 821-6500
Villa Banca
194 Main St. 598-0500
Wicked Twisted
38 East Hollis St. 577-1718

New Boston
Molly's Tavern
35 Mont Vernon Rd 487-2011

New London
Flying Goose
40 Andover Road 526-6899

Newington
Momma D's
347 Shattuck Way 431-6511

Newmarket
KJ's Sports Bar
N. Main St. 659-2329
Lamprey River Tavern
110 Main St. 659-3696
Stone Church
5 Granite St. 292-3546

Newport
Salt Hill Pub Newport
58 Main St. 863-7774

Newton
Hen House
85 S. Main St 382-1705

North Hampton
Locals 215 Lafayette Rd. 379-2729

Northwood
Tough Tymes 221 Rochester Rd 942-5555

Pelham
Shooters
116 Bridge St. 635-3577

Peterborough
Harlow's Pub
3 School St. 924-6365

Plaistow
Corner Pocket
181 Plaistow Rd. 382-3130
Dugout Grille
93 Main St. 819-4947
Racks Bar & Grill
20 Plaistow Rd. 974-2406
Sad Café
148 Plaistow Rd. 382-8893

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid Island Grill
The hill at Hanover and High streets 427-2583
British Beer Company
103 Hanover St. 501-0515
Daniel Street Tavern
111 Daniel St. 430-1011
Dolphin Striker
15 Bow St. 431-5222
Fat Belly's
2 Bow St. 610-4227
Hilton Garden Inn
100 High St. 431-1499
Jitto's Supersteak
3131 Lafayette Rd 436-9755
MoJo's BBQ Grill
95 Brewery Lane 436-6656
Oar House
50 Ceres St. 436-4025
Paddy's American Grill
27 International Dr. 430-9450
Portsmouth Gas Light
64 Market St. 431-9122
Portsmouth Pearl
45 Pearl St. 431-0148
Press Room
77 Daniel St. 431-5186
Red Door
107 State St. 373-6827
Red Hook Brewery
35 Corporate Dr. 430-8600
Ri Ra Irish Pub
22 Market Sq. 319-1680
Rudi's
20 High St. 430-7834
Rusty Hammer
49 Pleasant St. 436-9289
Thirsty Moose
21 Congress St. 427-8645
Wet Bar at Pages
172 Hanover St. 436-0004

Raymond
Famous Legends
4 Essex Dr. 895-4474

Salem
Black Water Grill
43 Pelham Road 328-9013

Coffee Coffee
326 S. Broadway 912-5381
Jocelyn's Lounge
355 S. Broadway 870-0045
JT's Bar and Grill
326 S. Broadway 893-4055
Sayde's Restaurant
136 Cluff Crossing 890-1032
Varsity Club
67 Main St. 898-4344

Seabrook
Chop Shop Pub
920 Lafayette Rd 760-7704
Honey Pot Bar & Lounge
920 Lafayette Road 760-2013
Master McGrath's
Route 107 474-6540
Prime Time Sports Grill
620 Lafayette Rd 760-7230

Sunapee
One Mile West Tavern
6 Brook Road 863-7500
Sunapee Coffee House
Rte. 11 & Lower Main St. 229-1859

Tilton
Black Swan Inn
354 W. Main St. 286-4524

Weare
Boondocks Tavern & Country Grille
487 South Stark Highway 529-7747

Windham
Common Man
88 Range Road 898-0088
Jonathon's Lounge
Park Place Lanes, Route 28 800-892-0568
The Castleton
92 Indian Rock Rd. 800-688-5644

Hampton
Wally's Pub: The Hemenways

Henniker
Sled Pub: Almost Acoustic Friday

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: DJ Alban

Kingston
Bucco's: Live Music

Laconia
Pitman's: Heather Pierson Quartet

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Paul Luff
Whippersnappers: Souled Out Show Band

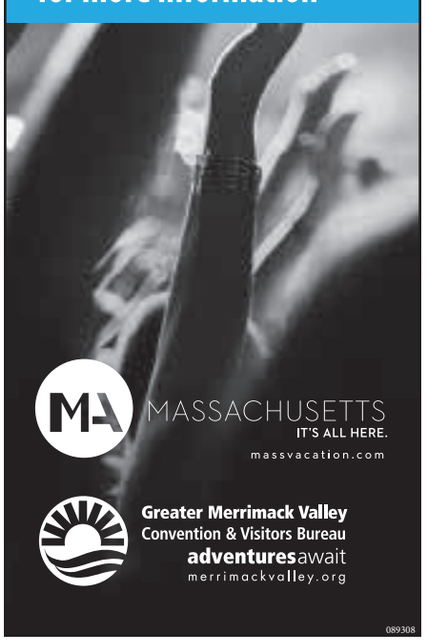
Manchester
99: Live Music
Breezeway Pub: DJ Mckay NRG Dance
British Beer Co: DJ S.O.B.
City Sports Grille: No Remorse
Club 313: DJ Bob
Derryfield: Triple Tantrum
Drynk: Valentines Day RED Party hosted by Danny Dee
Element: Friday Night Dance Party w/DJ Smallz
Fratello's: Brad Bosse
Jade Dragon: Last Laugh
Mad Bob's: Recently Deceased
ManchVegas: Eric Grant Band
Milly's: Live Music
Murphy's Taproom: Soundtrack To Monday
N'awlins Grille: Big Easy Quartet
Penuche's: Live Music
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Take 4
Strange Brew: Racky Thomas



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HOLY HA!

It's comedy night in the Holy Grail's Camelot Room (64 Main Street, Epping 679-9559) on Friday, Feb. 22, at 8 p.m. **Paul Gilligan** is one of the most requested comedians in Boston, bringing down the house with an attitude first developed as a high school class clown, and with material culled from his life as a blue-collar worker, husband and father. Ralphie Joyal also performs; a Vegas regular, he brings an array of impressions, including Ted Kennedy as a rapper. Doors open at 7 p.m. Advance reservations required; tickets are $15.

TJ's: DJ SP1 w/ Guests (MF Fridays)

Merrimack
Homestead: Gary Lopez
Jade Dragon: D-Comp
Pacific Fusion: No Guarantee

Milford
J's Tavern: The Razzles

Nashua
99 Nashua: Live Music
Amsterdam: Brian House
Arena: Dueling Pianos
Country Tavern: Kim Riley
Fody's: 20 Somethings
Stella Blu: Groove Cats

Newmarket
Stone Church: Adam Ezra

Peterborough
Harlow's: Murphy's Blues

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: The Unlikely Hero

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: James McGarvey
British Beer Co.: DJ Rick
Dolphin Striker: Rythm Method
Fat Belly's: DJ SKD
Gas Light: Deck: Ice Fest 2014, Nightclub: Guilty Pleasures - All Male Review, Sev; Pub: Keith Henderson
Oar House: Bob Arens
Press Room: Dub Apocalypse
Red Door: D-Lux & Wheels
Ri Ra: Live Music
Rudi's: PJ Donahue Trio
Rusty Hammer: Tim Gurshin
Thirsty Moose: Funkwagon

Salem
Black Water Grill: Rick Breton & Crew

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Stomping Melvin

Sunapee
Coffee House: Deep Hole Road

Saturday, Feb. 15

Bedford
Shorty's: Brandon Lepere

Belmont
Lakes Region Casino: DJ Christine

Boscawen
Alan's: Dustin Ladale

Brookline
Mad Hatter: J Ray and Dean

Concord
Hermanos: LiTim Gurshin
Penuche's Ale House: Van Burens
Tandy's: DJ Iceman Streetz (105.5 JYY)
True Brew: Pat & The Hats

Dover
Asia: DJ Shadow Walker
Brick House: Manic Midnight; Stop Tito; Collective
Fury's: Maganahan's Revival
Kelley's Row: Live Music
Sonny's: LALALPALALA Art Gatehring w/Flamenco in the Bathtub, Comma,Johnson 5

Epping
Holy Grail: Julie Dougherty

Epsom
Circle 9: Granite Country Band

Gilford
Patrick's: Truffle Duo

Goffstown
Village Trestle: Amanda Cote Project

Hampstead
Pasta Loft: Live Music
Village Square: Live Music

Hampton
Wally's Pub: Toll Booth Willie

Henniker
Sled Pub: Live Music

Hooksett
Asian Breeze: Live Music
Tap House Grille: Nicole Murphy

Kingston
Bucco's: Live Music

Laconia
Baja Beach Club: DJ

Londonderry
Coach Stop: Gary Lopez
Whippersnappers: Eric Grant Band

Manchester
British Beer: Bob Pratte Band
City Sports Grille: Random Act
Derryfield: Chad LaMarsh Band
Element: Dance Party, DJ Smallz
Fratello's: Lalchlan Maclearn
Jade Dragon: Live Music
Jam Factory: Messages of Ennui
ManchVegas: Live Rock Music
Midnight Rodeo: Jodie and Haywire
Milly's: Live Music
Murphy's: Triple Tantrum
N'awlins Grille: Boo Boo Groove
Penuche's: The Jauntee
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Layzie Bone, Mo Thugs, Eyenine, I'll By Instinct
Strange Brew: Matthew Stubbs Band
Wild Rover: Nate & Demitri

Merrimack
Homestead: Steve Tolley
Jade Dragon: Live Music

Milford
J's Tavern: Rampage Trio
Pasta Loft: B-3

Nashua
Amsterdam: AJ Jansen
Boston Billiard Club: DJ Anthem Throwback
Country Tavern: Jeff Mrozek
Fody's: Encircle
Killarney's: Kieran McNally
Stella Blu: Gentleman Outfit

Peterborough
Harlow's: Travis Colby Band

Plaistow
Sad Cafe: Speaking of the Past

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Leo Ganley
British Beer: Jim Devlin Band
Dolphin: Brick Yard Blues
Fat Belly's: DJ Provo
Gas Light: Deck: Ice Fest 2014!; Grill: Tony Santesse; Pub: Alex Philbrick
Oar House: Don Severance
Portsmouth Book & Bar: David Surette & Susie Burke
Press Room: Live Music
Red Door: Mike Swells
Ri Ra: The Complaints
Rudi's: Dimitri & Guest
Thirsty Moose: Conehead Buddha



ROCKIN' ROD

With a striking resemblance to Rod Stewart — in looks, voice and onstage energy — **Rick Larrimore** and his band Blondes Have More Fun perform a Valentine's dinner show on Sunday, Feb. 16, at 7 p.m. at Whippersnappers (44 Nashua Road, Londonderry 434-2660). Larrimore and his 6-piece band play Rod The Mods classics from his early solo records, the Faces era to his latest hits. The shaggy haired doppelgänger has performed his tribute show at B.B. King's in New York City and Caesar's Palace. Tickets are $10.

Salem
Black Water Grill: Live Music

Seabrook
Chop Shop: Live Band

Weare
Boondocks: Jenny Lynn Band

Sunday, Feb. 16

Bedford
Copper Door: Cosmo Funday Live Music

Concord
Hermanos: Eric Chase

Dover
Brick House: Live Jazz Brunch with Jim Dozet Trio
Sonny's: Sonny's Jazz Series w/ Equal Time

Epsom
Circle 9: NHCMA Jamboree

Henniker
Sled Pub: Crab Shack Band

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: Rick Larrimore (Rod Stewart Tribute)

Manchester
British Beer Company: Bloody Blues Brunch - Juke Joint 5
Jam Factory: Kevin Kelley; Paul Jamilkowski; Cody Care
Manchvegas: DJ Core
Shaskeen: Rap, Industry night
Social 24: Sunday Funday Jam
Strange Brew: Howard Randall

Meredith
Giuseppe's: Open Stage with Lou Porrazzo

Portsmouth
British Beer Company: Bloody Blues Brunch Series featuring Boston Baked Blues 1pm
Dolphin Striker: Joel Cage
Gas Light: Deck: Ice Fest 2014!
Red Door: A Winter's Tale, True Stories Told Live, No Notes, No Net (7-9) GreenLion Crew

Monday, Feb. 17

Concord
Hermanos: Eric Chase

Manchester
Fratello's: Rob Wolfe
Milly's: DJ

Merrimack
Homestead: Charlie Christos

Newmarket
Stone Church: Sinful Blues - Open Blues Jam

Portsmouth
Dolphin Striker: Old School
Fat Belly's: Jerry Sutherland
Red Door: Andrew Polakow / Hilton Park
Ri Ra: Oran Mor

Tuesday, Feb. 18

Brookline
Mad Hatter: Rock Snowmen

Concord
Barley House: Irish Sessions
Hermanos: Times Two

Dover
Cara: Open Bluegrass/Americana
Fury's: Tim Theriault and Friends

Londonderry
Whippersnappers: VJ Mark

Manchester
Fratello's: Kim Riley
Milly's: Live Music
N'awlins Grille: Dom the Sax Man
Raxx: DJ Mike
Shaskeen: Amigo & The Devil
Strange Brew: All Stars

Merrimack
Homestead: Paul Luff

Newmarket
Stone Church: Bluegrass Jam w/Dave Talmage

Peterborough
Waterhouse: Eric Gagne

Portsmouth
Blue Mermaid: Honky Tonk Tuesdays
Press Room: Larry Garland Jazz Jam

Wednesday, Feb. 19

Concord
Hermanos: Rob Wolfe

Dover
Fury's: Badwolf
Sonny's: Local Music Night w/ Green Bastard

Gilford
Patrick's: Paul Warnick

Manchester
Fratello's: Brandon Lepere
Milly's: DJ
N'awlins Grille: Dom the Sax Man
Strange Brew: Sev

Merrimack
Homestead: Brian Gray
Pacific Fusion: Joe McDonald

Milford
J's Tavern: Eric Neilson

Nashua
Amsterdam: Chips n' Dip
Killarney's: Kieran McNally
Wicked Twisted: Wicked Twisted Blues Band Jam

Portsmouth
Fat Belly's: Aaron Lethonen
Red Door: Red on Red w/ Evaredy (Ladies Night)
Ri Ra: Great Bay Sailor
Rudi's: Solo Dimitri on Piano
Thirsty Moose: Benefit show with Rayel and Bcap

Weare
Boondocks: Blues Jam w/ Paul Spera, Junie Belanger & Mickey McGuire

GET THE CROWDS AT YOUR GIG

Want to get your show listed in the Music This Week? Let us know all about your upcoming show, comedy show, open mike night or multi-band event by sending all the information to **music@hippopress.com**. Send information by 9 a.m. on Friday to have the event considered for the next Thursday's paper.

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RICK DERRINGER

Fri., February 14
8:00 p.m. • $40 • RS-Theater

ENTRAIN

Sat., February 15
8:00 p.m. • $25 • GA

NIGHT OF COMEDY
Featuring PJ Thibodeau & John Morris

Fri., February 21
8:00 p.m.
$18
RS-Tables

STANLEY CLARKE

Sat., February 22
8:00 p.m.
$60/$65
RS-Theater

MANCHUKA
Dinner & Dancing

Sat., March 3
7:00 p.m.
$25
GA

NIGHT OF COMEDY
Featuring Frank Santorelli and Mitch Stinson

Fri., March 7
8:00 p.m.
$18
RS-Tables

ANNA NALICK

Sun., March 9
7:00 p.m.
$25
RS-Theater

THE MAKEM & SPAIN BROTHERS

Thurs., March 13
8:00 p.m.
$25
RS-Theater

JOHN EDDIE

Fri., March 21
8:00 p.m.
$25
GA

LIVE'S
ED KOWALCZYK

Sat., March 22
8:00 p.m.
$40/$45
RS-Theater

ENTER THE HAGGIS

Sun., March 23
7:00 p.m. • $22 • RS-Theater

ROOMFUL OF BLUES

Fri., April 4
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VALENTINE SWING

The exciting, high-energy 20-piece **Compaq Big Band** hosts a Valentine's Dance on Saturday, Feb. 15, in the Ballroom of the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Nashua (2 Somerset Pkwy, Nashua 886-1200). The band showcases the power of 14 horns, a cookin' rhythm section, terrific instrumental soloists, and the phenomenal Rebecca Holtz on vocals. Doors at 7:00 p.m., with a one-hour beginner-friendly swing dance lesson by Dance2Swing Studios to kick things off, followed by three hours of music. Tickets are $18 at compaqbigband.

COMEDY THIS WEEK AND BEYOND

Thursday, Feb. 13
Derry
Halligan Tavern: Feature act w/ spotlight & 4 others

Nashua
Fody's: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Friday, Feb. 14
Manchester
Headliners: Dueling Pianos

Milford
Clark's: Jody Sloane/ Matt Barry - Love Stinks

Portsmouth
Music Hall: Mike McDonald's Comedy Xxtravaganza
Sheraton: Mike Koutrobis

Raymond
Veronica Laffs: Jody Sloane (Love Stinks Anti-Valentine)

Saturday, Feb. 15
Laconia
Pitman's: Tony V and Derek Richards

Manchester
Headliners: Mick Thomas

Nashua
Chunky's Pub: Jim Lauletta/Mike Prior/ Matt Barry

Wednesday, Feb. 19
Dover
Cara: Tip Jar Comedy w/ Jay Grove

Manchester
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free or Die Open Mic
Shaskeen: James Creelman/ RA Bartlett

Thursday, Feb. 20
Derry
Halligan Tavern: Feature act w/ spotlight & 4 others

Hudson
Soho: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Friday, Feb. 21
Epping
Holy Grail: Paul Gilligan & Ralphie Joyal

Londonderry
Tupelo: PJ Thibodeau and John Morris

Plaistow
Crow's Nest: Jay Grove/Hamilton Johnson/Steve Cloutier

Saturday, Feb. 22
Dover
Cara: Jay Grove Birthday Show

Manchester
Headliners: Mark Scalia

Wednesday, Feb. 26
Dover
Cara: Tip Jar Comedy w/ Jay Grove

Manchester
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free or Die Open Mic
Shaskeen: Steve Bix/ Kyron Hobdy

Thursday, Feb. 27
Derry
Halligan Tavern: Feature act w/ spotlight & 4 others

Nashua
Fody's: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Saturday, Mar. 1
Concord
Capitol Center: Joe Yannetty

Manchester
Headliners: Mike Koutrobis

Portsmouth
Music Hall: Paula Poundstone

Wed., March 5
Manchester
Shaskeen: Dan Crohn/Alignon Mitra
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free or Die Open Mic

Thurs., March 6
Derry
Halligan Tavern: Feature act w/ spotlight & 4 others

Nashua
Fody's: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Friday, March 7
Londonderry
Tupelo: Frank Santorelli and Mitch Stinson

Sat., March 8
Keene
Colonial Theatre: Dueling Pianos

Manchester
Headliners: Ira Proctor

Raymond
Veronica Laffs: Ryan Gartley

Wed., March 12
Manchester
Shaskeen: Aaron Burzack/James Mullan
Murphy's Taproom: Laugh Free or Die Open Mic

Nashua
Fody's: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Friday, March 14
Manchester
Headliners: Mich Fatel
Palace: Lenny Clarke & His Cast of Characters

Sat., March 15
Dover
Cara: Mitch Fatel

Manchester
Headliners: Mike Donovan

Plymouth
Flying Monkey: Paula Poundstone

Wed., March 19
Manchester
Headliners: Bob Seibel

Manchester
Shaskeen: Brody Stevens/Nick Lavallee

Thurs., March 20
Derry
Halligan Tavern: Feature act w/ spotlight & 4 others

Hudson
Soho: Comedy on Purpose - Alana Susko

Friday, March 21
Manchester
Headliners: Dueling Pianos

Sat., March 22
Manchester
Headliners: Harrison Stebbins

Nashua
Chunky's Pub: Dave Russo/James Dorcey/ Jesse Bickford

Capitol Center for the Performing Arts 44 S. Main St., Concord, 225-1111, ccanh.com
The Colonial Theatre 95 Main St., Keene, 352-2033, thecolonial.org
Dana Humanities Center at Saint Anselm College 100 Saint Anselm Drive, Manchester, 641-7700, anselm.edu/dana
The Flying Monkey 39 S. Main St., Plymouth, 536-2551, flyingmonkeynh.com
Hampton Beach Casino Ballroom 169 Ocean Blvd., Hampton Beach, 929-4100, casinoballroom.com
Leddy Center 38c Ladd's Lane, Epping, 679-2781, leddycenter.org
Lowell Boarding House Park 40 French St., Lowell, Mass., www.lowellsummermusic.org
Lowell Memorial Auditorium East Merrimack Street, Lowell, Mass., 978-454-2299, lowellauditorium.com
Meadowbrook U.S. Cellular Pavilion 72 Meadowbrook Lane, Gilford, 293-4700, meadowbrook.net
The Middle Arts & Entertainment Center 316 Central St., Franklin, 934-1901, themiddlenh.org
The Music Hall 28 Chestnut St., Portsmouth, 436-2400, themusichall.org
The Old Meeting House, 1 New Boston Road, Francestown
Palace Theatre, 80 Hanover St., Manchester, 668-5588, palacetheatre.org
Prescott Park Arts Festival 105 Marcy St., Portsmouth, www.prescottpark.org, 436-2848
Rochester Opera House 31 Wakefield St., Rochester, 335-1992, rochesteroperahouse.com
Stockbridge Theatre Pinkerton Academy, Route 28, Derry, 437-5210, stockbridgetheatre.com
Tupelo Music Hall 2 Young Road, Londonderry, 437-5100, tupelohall.com
Verizon Wireless Arena 555 Elm St., Manchester, 644-5000, www.verizonwirelessarena.com
Whittemore Center Arena, UNH 128 Main St., Durham, 862-4000, whittcenter.com

- **Doug Bell w/ Tammy Lynn & Myles High** Thu., Feb. 13 at 8, Tupelo
- **Defending the Caveman** Fri., Feb. 14 at 7, Cap Center
- **Rhythm of the Dance - National Dance Theatre of Ireland** Fri., Feb. 14 at 7:30, Dana Center
- **Gaudy Baubles** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Music Hall
- **Mike McDonald Comedy Xxtravaganza** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Music Hall
- **Spirit of Johnny Cash** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Rick Derringer** Fri., Feb. 14 at 8, Tupelo
- **Juston McKinney** Sat., Feb. 15 at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Entrain** Sat., Feb. 15 at 8, Tupelo
- **Brad Paisley/Chris Young** Sat., Feb. 15 at 8, Verizon Wireless Arena
- **Peter Asher** Thu., Feb. 20 at 7, Cap Center
- **Pearl & the Beard** Fri., Feb. 21 at 8, Cap Center
- **Figgs** Fri., Feb. 21 at 8, Music Hall
- **PJ Thibodeau and John Morris** Fri., Feb. 21 at 8, Tupelo
- **New England Music Awards** Sat., Feb. 22 at 7, Lowell Memorial Auditorium
- **Holly Williams (Sold Out)** Sat., Feb. 22 at 8, Music Hall
- **Frank Santos (R-Rated Hypnotist)** Sat., Feb. 22 at 8, Rochester Opera House
- **Stanley Clarke** Sat., Feb. 22 at 8, Tupelo
- **Dweezil Zappa** Thu., Feb. 27 at 7, Cap Center
- **Gaelic Storm** Fri., Feb. 28 at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Joe Yannitti (Comedy)** Sat., Mar. 1 at 8, Cap Center
- **Paula Poundstone** Sat., Mar. 1 at 8, Music Hall
- **Dinner/Dance with Manchuka** Sat., Mar. 1 at 7, Tupelo
- **Gaelic Storm** Sun., Mar. 2 at 8, Music Hall
- **Josh Ritter** Tue., Mar. 4 at 7:30, Lebanon Opera House
- **Count Basie Orchestra** Tue., Mar. 4 at 7, Stockbridge Theatre
- **Teitur** Thu., Mar. 6 at 7:30, Cap Center
- **Justin Moore w/ Randy Houser** Thu., Mar. 6 at 7, Tsongas Center
- **Open Mic Night Featuring Davey O** Thu., Mar. 6 at 8, Tupelo
- **Alan Kelly Gang & The Karan Casey Band** Fri., Mar. 7 at 7:30, Dana Center
- **Los Lobos** Fri., Mar. 7 at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **John Ford Coley** Fri., Mar. 7 at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Comedy with Frank Santorelli and Mitch Stinson** Fri., Mar. 7 at 8, Tupelo
- **Annalivia** Sat., Mar. 8 at 7, Franklin Opera House
- **Francis Dunnery Electric Band** Sat., Mar. 8 at 8, Tupelo
- **Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald** Sun., Mar. 9 at 4, Cap Center
- **Tony Bennett (Sold Out)** Sun., Mar. 9 at 8, Music Hall
- **Celtic Nights** Sun., Mar. 9 at 7, Rochester Opera House
- **Anna Nalick** Sun., Mar. 9 at 8, Tupelo
- **Danu** Tue., Mar. 11 at 7, Stockbridge Theatre
- **Makem and Spain Brothers** Thu., Mar. 13 at 8, Tupelo
- **Lenny Clarke & His Cast of Characters** Fri., Mar. 14 at 7, Palace Theatre
- **The Straits** Fri., Mar. 14 at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Paula Poundstone** Sat., Mar. 15 at 7:30, Flying Monkey
- **Frank Santos (R-Rated Hypnotist)** Sat., Mar. 15 at 7, Palace Theatre
- **Jefferson Starship 40th Anniversary Tour** Sat., Mar. 15 at 8, Tupelo
- **Chris Botti** Sun., Mar. 16 at 8, Music Hall
- **Royal Southern Brotherhood** Sun., Mar. 16 at 8, Tupelo



ALL ORIGINAL

Modern Gypsy, a Manchester vintage clothing store (383 Chestnut St., Manchester), presents four originals of folk and fringe music on Friday, Feb. 14, at 6:30 p.m. **Lauren Hurley** brings a fiery energy to her solo folk rock; the young performer is a rising star in her hometown of Concord. Mark Gilday, Jr. is part boy next-door, part crazy neighbor that screams at the ducks every morning; Sam Rush is both a poet and songwriter. One-man band MSF rounds out the event with a haunting electronic sound that can't adequately be described here.



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EVENT

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All quotes are from Peter Gabriel, born Feb. 13, 1950

Aquarius (Jan. 20 – Feb. 18) *"Don't give up / You're not the only one." —"Don't Give Up"* Like Walter in that new Muppets movie, you must find your people. Muppets. Whatever.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – March 20) *"You could have a steam train if you'd just lay down your tracks." —"Sledgehammer"* But do you really want a steam train? That's what you need to ask yourself. Because you could also have a bike path or a garden patio or a superhighway, but you probably can't do them all at once, right? So take some time to plan things out a little.

Aries (March 21 – April 19) *"There is something else there / When all that you had has all gone." —"More Than This"* Check under the sofa cushions. In the meantime, you will find reserves of strength you might have forgotten about.

Taurus (April 20 – May 20) *"So I went from day to day / Though my life was in a rut / 'Til I thought of what I'd say / Which connection I should cut." —"Solsbury Hill"* It's a big week for social wrangling. Just try to be kind to everyone and stay above the fray.

Gemini (May 21 – June 20) *"Words, they climb all over you / 'Til they uncover you / From where you hide." —"Love to be Loved"* You'll know the truth when you hear it.

Cancer (June 21 – July 22) *"Wheels keep turning / Something's burning / Don't like it but I guess I'm learning." —"Shock the Monkey"* You are wiser now than you were before and you'll be even wiser later.

Leo (July 23 – Aug 22) *"The place where I come from / Is a small town / They think so small / They use small words. / But not me / I'm smarter than that / I worked it out / I'll be stretching my big mouth to let those big words come right out." —"Big Time"* Don't try to impress yourself and others. It will only backfire anyway. Stick to doing a job well and you'll be recognized for your work.

Virgo (Aug. 23 – Sept. 22) *"There's a rumble in the floorboards / No shutting out the sound / And the workers are below me, digging underground / Feel the building all around me / Like a wrap of armored skin / But the more we are protected, the more we're trapped within ... Tell it like it is / Till there's no misunderstanding / When you strip it right back / Man feed machine / Machine feed man." —"The Tower that Ate People"* Now would be a good time for enjoying nature.

Libra (Sept. 23 – Oct. 22) *"In the swirling, curling storm of desire, unuttered words hold fast." —"Come Talk to Me"* If you've got something to get off your chest, just do it. And if someone else does, just listen without judging.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) *"Dressing up in costumes, playing silly games / Hiding out in treetops, shouting out rude names." —"Games Without Frontiers"* This would be an excellent week for some silly fun time with friends.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) *"Keep your hands on the wheel / Don't turn around, this is for real." —"Digging in the Dirt"* This is good advice. What you choose to apply it to is up to you.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 – Jan 19) *"Falling snow / Excellent snow / Here it comes, watch it fall." —"This is the Picture"* Enjoy some outdoor activities or take in some winter scenery. You may discover a knack for photography.

NITE SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

	1		7	5		6	3	
3					9			7
8								
	5							2
7				3				9
1							4	
								5
6			5					1
	4	2		7	6		9	

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/13

SUDOKU

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. *Last week's puzzle answers are below*

2/06

5	8	9	1	3	4	7	6	2
3	4	2	7	6	8	5	9	1
1	7	6	9	5	2	4	3	8
8	3	5	4	2	9	1	7	6
6	9	7	5	8	1	2	4	3
2	1	4	6	7	3	8	5	9
7	2	8	3	4	6	9	1	5
4	6	1	2	9	5	3	8	7
9	5	3	8	1	7	6	2	4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 2/06

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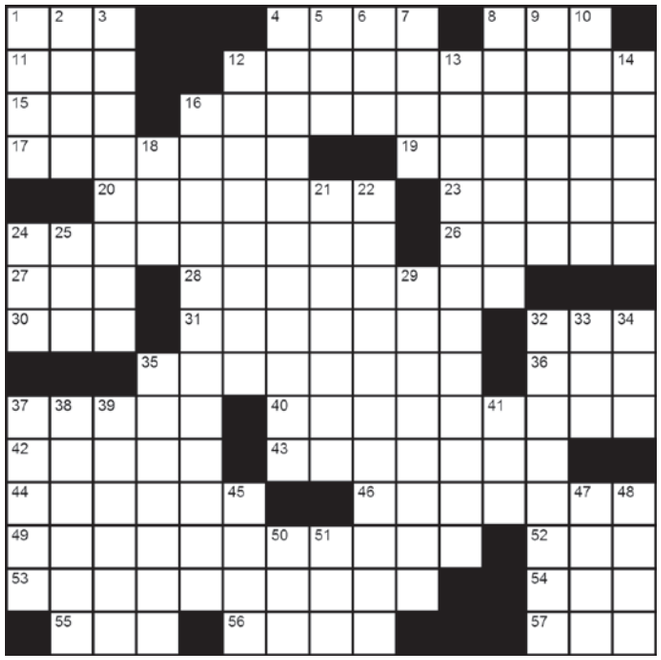
"Large and in Charge" — craaaaazy freestyle time.

Across

1 Like Twiggy's fashion
4 Mild lettuce
8 Old French Communist Party of Canada inits. (hidden in EPCOT)
11 HBO character Gold
12 Old soap, sometimes
15 Give it the gas
16 Unwilling to move
17 Unit of electrical charge
19 Tom's wife
20 Tibetan Buddhist practice
23 Checks a box
24 Howitzer of WWI
26 "___ the Beat" (Blondie album)
27 A, in some games
28 Substance that may darken your pasta
30 Series end at Downton Abbey?
31 As of riiiiiiight.....now
32 Z3 or X5 maker
35 Mission of "Pee-wee's Big Adventure"?
36 Anatomical eggs
37 NASA astronaut Leroy ___
40 Minor Arcana card
42 Opening opening?
43 DMV requirement
44 "C'est magnifique!"
46 Vitamin-B complex nutrients
49 Indivisible division figure
52 Sine ___ non
53 Wish for the trip back
54 Thurman of "The Producers"
55 All the same
56 Cautious (of)
57 Go down

Down

1 Chagall or Jacobs
2 Milkshake flavor
3 Gave out, as a secret
4 Sedative, often
5 Ox tail?
6 Canadian singer/songwriter ___ Naked
7 Baseball's Powell
8 Washing machine cycle
9 Television host Dick
10 Brunch staple
12 "All Quiet on the Western Front" author
13 Scared beyond belief
14 "Am not!" comeback
16 Kid with no commute
18 "Chocolate" dog
21 Temple of films
22 Posted to your blog, say
24 "Moulin Rouge!" director Luhrmann
25 Drink machine freebie
29 Active
32 Little shop
33 AL award won by 7-Down in 1970
34 Never-___ (not even a has-been)
35 Anti-heartburn brand
37 Horse sounds
38 Bit of cheer
39 As we go about our days
41 Palindromic trig function
45 Not tons
47 Unable to sense
48 Car that sounds like it's crying
50 Week-___-glance calendar
51 Mangy mongrel



2/06

L	A	M		A	A	H	S			D	I	R	G	E	
E	R	A		B	L	O	T		P	A	N	E	R	A	
T	I	N		B	I	T	O		H	E	L	T	E	R	
B	E	D	R	A	G	G	L	E	D		I	R	A	S	
E	L	M	O			L	T	R			M	I	T		
			W	E	W	U	Z	R	O	B	B	E	D		
U	S	E	R	F	E	E			G	R	O	V	E	R	
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	Z	O	E			T	I	A			E	S	T	E	
P	E	R	K		T	H	E	M	O	N	S	T	E	R	
A	B	A	S	E	S			R	O	B	E		U	N	O
P	A	T	I	N	A			K	N	O	W		B	E	D
A	G	E	N	T				S	T	E	T		S	T	E

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the Hippo

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Send press releases (that include time, dates and location of the event plus contact information for the public and, if different, contact information for our reporters) to news@hippopress.com.

That is a general mail box. To reach reporters with specific sections of the paper:

- **Arts** — Send information on exhibits, theatrical productions, classical music events, art and theater classes and auditions to Kelly Sennott at arts@hippopress.com. You can also reach her by phone at 625-1855 ext. 12.
- **Books** — Send information on book-related events (including author events, book clubs, poetry events and more) to Kelly Sennott at arts@hippopress.com. Books submitted for review will not be returned. Books can be submitted for review or mention to Book Editor, The Hippo, 49 Hollis St., Manchester, NH, 03104. Books submitted will be considered for review but are not guaranteed review or mention.
- **Food** — Send information about new restaurants, new menus, new chefs, chef and restaurant awards, food events, wine tastings, beer and wine making, cook-offs and other food competitions to food@hippopress.com
- **Listings** — Send information on events and classes for kids, continuing education for adults, fitness and health classes and events, local museum events and exhibits, volunteer needs and more to listings@hippopress.com. Please send information intended for listings section at least two weeks before the publication date (Hippo publishes every Thursday) before the event. Please note that due to space constraints, not all listings run every week.
- **Music** — Send information on upcoming live music performances, bands, new CD releases, comedy nights, DJs and karaoke nights, nightlife events and concert series to music@hippopress.com.
- **News** — Send information about new businesses, political events and other items intended for the news section to jmucciarone@hippopress.com. You can also reach him at 625-1855 ext. 36.

Not sure who to send it to? You can also contact editor Amy Diaz at adiaz@hippopress.com or call 625-1855 ext. 29.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Send letters to the editor to news@hippopress.com. Include your name, address and phone number for verification. Letters will be edited for size and will appear in our occasional comments section.

GENERAL SUBMISSIONS

The Hippo does not accept unsolicited articles, photos, illustrations or guest columns for publication. Submissions will not be returned or acknowledged.

DISPLAY ADVERTISEMENTS

Contact Charlene Cesarini at 625-1855 ext. 26 or at ccesarini@hippopress.com or Jody Reese at 625-1855 ext. 21 or at jreese@hippopress.com for information on placing a display advertisement. The space reservation deadline is Friday at noon. The ad materials deadline is Monday at noon. Contact your ad rep or Charlene Cesarini for more information.

LINE CLASSIFIED ADS

Contact our classified ad department at classifieds@hippopress.com or 625-1855 ext. 25. The deadline for classifieds is Monday at noon.

NEWS OF THE WEIRD BY CHUCK SHEPHERD

Our cold, dead hands

The semi-obscure Florida Statute 790.15 took center stage in January following a Miami Herald report of a resident of the town of Big Pine Key who routinely target-shoots his handgun in his yard, with impunity, to the consternation of neighbors. The statute permits open firing on private property (except shooting over a public right of way or an occupied dwelling), and several cities have tried, unsuccessfully, to restrict that right, citing "public safety" in residential neighborhoods. (A 2011 lobbying campaign by the National Rifle Association, and a state supreme court decision, nixed any change in the law.) "Negligent" shooting is illegal, but only a misdemeanor. Thus, even skillful shooting next door to a day care center or in a small yard that abuts a high-trafficked pedestrian street is likely perfectly legal. One Florida legislator who was originally from Alaska noted that even in Anchorage people cannot fire at will in their yards.

Cultural diversity

• South Korea is a well-known hub for cosmetic beautification surgery, with a higher rate per capita than the U.S., but the procedures can be expensive, inspiring many young women recently to resort to do-it-yourself procedures for their professional and romantic upgrades. A December Global Post dispatch noted that some might try to force their eyes to stay open without blinking (using a novel $20 pair of glasses for hours on end) as a substitute for costly "double-eyelid" surgery. Also in use: a $6 jaw-squeezing roller device for the face to push the jaw line into a fashionable "oval" form. One teen told the reporter she applies an imaginative contraption to her face for hours a day to pressure her nose into more of a point, which is considered a desirable Western look.

• In December, thieves in Wicklow, Ireland, raided a convent's field at the Dominican Farm and Ecology Center, stripping it of its entire crop of Brussels sprouts. A nun at the farm said the sisters were devastated to miss out on the lucrative market for high-end Christmas dinners.

• In January, Wal-Mart in China recalled its "Five Spice" donkey meat sold in some locations because the popular snack was found to be tainted — with fox meat.

• The French social security agency URSSAF initiated an enforcement action in December against the Mamm-Kounifl music bar in the town of Locmiquelic for underpaying employee contributions — in that the tavern encourages customers to bus their own tables and thus reduces its need to hire more servers. The owner denied he was trying to save money. "It's (just) our trademark. We want the customer to feel comfortable, a bit like he's at home."

Questionable judgments

• From the birth register of Elkhart (Ind.) General Hospital, reported by The Elkhart Truth, Jan. 19, 2014: "Tamekia Burks, Elkhart, daughter (named La'Soulja Major La'Pimp Burks, 6 lbs., 8 oz.), 3:20 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014."

• The makers of a product called Poo-Pourri garnered a "coveted" advertising award from USA Today in December as one of the five worst ads of the year. Toilet users concerned about smell are encouraged to spray Poo-Pourri on the commode, pre-use, and in the television ad, a British-accented female sits on the throne, extolling the product. Opening line: "You would not believe the mother lode I just dropped."

The continuing crisis

World's Laziest Dog Sitter: Tyler Smith, 23, was charged in December with violating the city animal care ordinance in Greenville, S.C., after a photograph was posted on Facebook of his father's dog being lowered by rope from the second-story balcony of an apartment. According to the posting, it was time for the dog to make a call of nature, but it was raining, and Smith preferred not to go downstairs with him.

Perspective

Three million Americans are infected with hepatitis C (as are millions more overseas), but a very recent drug, Sovaldi, completely cures it with 84 daily doses. However, its manufacturer, Gilead Sciences, has somehow determined that a fair U.S. price for the drug should be $1,000 per pill ($84,000 for the total treatment). Shouldn't Gilead reduce the price once it has recouped its expensive investment, asked an NPR reporter in December? "That's very unlikely we would do that," said Gilead's Gregg Alton, but "I appreciate the thought." (According to NPR, Gilead "developed" Sovaldi merely by buying Sovaldi's actual developer for $11 billion. At $84,000 per patient, Gilead would "recoup" that investment from the first 150,000 customers, leaving 2.85 million more U.S. patients to pay $84,000 each, for an income of $239 billion.)

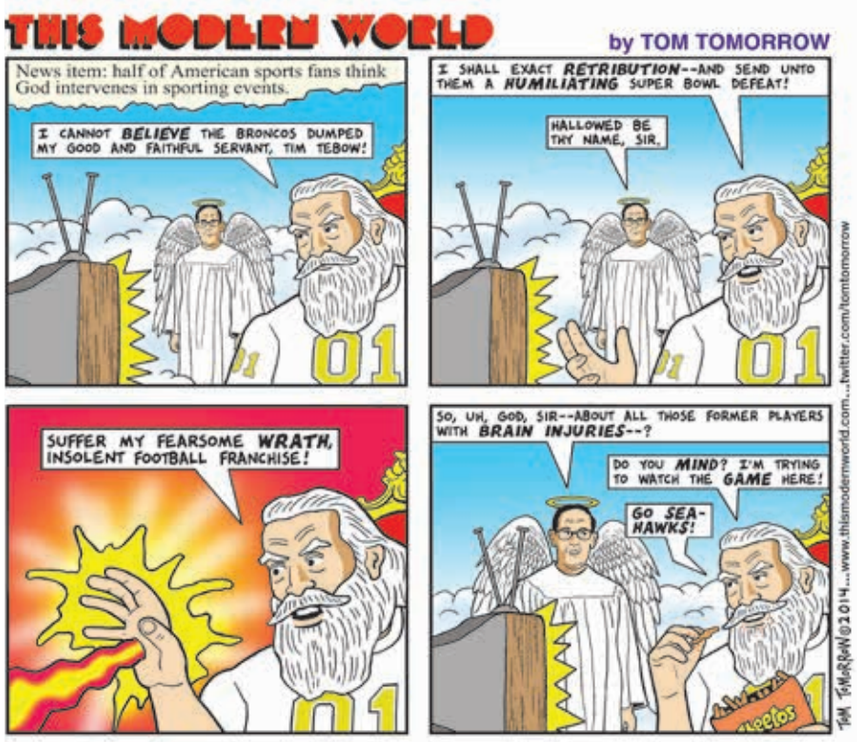
Least competent criminals

It Pays to Know Your Rap Sheet: Jerry Pancoast, 42, was arrested on at least four charges after a high-speed chase through Iowa's Polk and Jasper counties in January following an alleged shoplifting of tweezers and an eyebrow pencil — not even taken by Pancoast but by his companion. Pancoast drove at 100 mph, even on deflated tires and three rims that eventually caused his truck to catch on fire. The episode started as "a simple theft case," said the arresting officer, until Pancoast abruptly took off. He later explained that he panicked because he knew there were already arrest warrants against him — but a search turned up none.

Recurring themes

Police in Los Angeles City were searching in February for the man suspected of stealing surveillance cameras from a home, but not before he apparently failed to distinguish between the camera (which he took with him) and the recording unit (which remained in the home and captured his face clearly as he removed the camera).

For more, visit newsoftheweird.universe.net.



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